

Dear delegates:

Welcome to this year's Model United Nations, here we will tell you a little of why we love participating in these models. By being part of this, we can contribute to constant fight to overcome the challenges of our world, and make a change. Little by little we might be able to take part on a global proposal to change the world.

This year we are going to focus on the Recruitment of children into armed groups and gangs in the region of central Africa and the Water deficit and sanitation problem for children in Africa as well as India, we expect that you delegates can get to the solution of this problems by giving your proposals and cooperating with other delegates.

We hope to see you soon on this committee with all your proposals to improve these two topics that we are going to talk about.

See you in December,
UNICEF CHAIRS

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Topic A: Recruitment of children into armed groups and gangs in the region of central Africa

Introduction

In the region of central Africa, underage children are being recruited into government armed forces or rebel groups, where they serve as combatants, cooks, porters, messengers, and other roles.

Topic Outline

Although many have been recruited by force, others have joined as a result of economic or social pressure. Children are recruited thanks to the fact that they are much easier to control and influence than adults. Minors involved in this conflict are exposed to tremendous violence, and at this young age, kids do not understand the immoral and unethical magnitude that killing a person represents; so after doing this several times, they become indifferent to watching or participating in the action of killing.

It is estimated that approximately 120,000 children between the ages of seven and 18 have participated in armed conflicts throughout the African continent. UNICEF has secured the release of children from conflict-affected countries such as: Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda.

There are other programs involved just as: ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor, which launched the "Sub-Regional Program" for the reintegration of child soldiers and the prevention of the use of children in armed conflict in central Africa"; and the "Children Not Soldiers Campaign" that an action plan that has had notable progress in Afghanistan, The Democratic Republic of Congo and Myanmar. Despite prior commitments with this campaign, children in Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen are still facing challenging situations.

Essence of the debate

The main cause of this problem is the political instability in the official governments of these countries. The objective of this committee is to protect the integrity and well-being of the children in these countries, especially the ones that are in a precarious situation, because they are the most vulnerable targets to be recruited. We must find a solution without intervening with the political issues, since this is not part of UNICEF's jurisdiction.

Questions to consider

Consider the following questions to have a better understanding of the topic:

Does this problem have a direct impact on your country?

In case it does not, what is the position of your country towards this topic?

What is your country doing to solve it?

What programs have already been established to help solve this problem?

Does your solution have a real budget?

Is there a specific time when your solution will take place?

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Root Causes of Child Recruitment | United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. (n.d.). Retrieved October 24, 2016, from <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/effects-of-conflict/root-causes-of-child-soldiering/>

Topic B: Water deficit and sanitation problem for children in Africa as well as India.

Introduction

Water deficit problematic has become an increasing global problem, especially in regions such as Africa and India. We take water for granted and even waste it, when we should be thankful and because nearly one billion people around the world spend their whole day traveling for it. Every day in poor urban centers and rural communities, children are likely to suffer from serious illnesses because of the lack of access to drinking safe water, prominent illnesses that are taking away the chance to many children's future.

Topic Outline

This is a consequence of the basic and undeveloped sanitation system, the few scattered clean water available for the children in this places are being, in many cases, contaminated or used in an incorrect way generating a decrease in the limited clean water sources. Whenever they find a new source of water they consume from it because they desperately need it, their education is lost because of illnesses, and their moral also gets lost because their only worry is surviving. Contamination and lack of water has become one of the biggest problems that we are facing this day.

Unfortunately, there are places that have been affected more than others because of the industrial pollution which is when industries and factories contaminate the environment by throwing all their waste into the air and water, in the case of India, the World Health Organization has confirmed that 6.5 million are dying because of industrial pollution. Industries do not give the needed interest in order to reduce this issue. Urban zones however, have a better position because water is being extracted from new underground existing sources, but the overcrowding also makes it difficult to control sanitation.

Essence of the Debate

New pipes have been installed, but the results have not been as expected. This is a non-ending problem because according to The Water Project the bad management, planification and control of the government's secretaries in charge of the sanitation systems, do not keep up with the needed maintenance, and water quality testing is not performed as often as it should. Putting together people's need of water, and education deficiency, they are lead to believe that as long as they get water from a reliable source, it will be safe. As time passes, more attention is given to the quantity of water, and less attention is given to the quality they receive.

Questions to Consider:

Does this problem have a direct impact on your country?

In case it does not, what is the position of your country towards this topic?

What is already being done about this conflict?

What is your country doing to solve it?

The solutions that you reached have a real budget?

Does your solutions has clear time lines?

In order to actually cause an impact in these regions, we need to achieve effective solutions and viable proposals. We need to make sure that we come with fresh new ideas and that we are not using a solution that already exists.

Delegates of the UNICEF, our responsibility is to bring these problems to an end once and for all. We need your courage, action, and support to solve this. I am also sure that we can help to eradicate these problems. Hope to see you soon delegates.

References and Suggested Websites:

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"water and sanitation - World Health Organization." 2006. <http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/jmpfinal.pdf>

"Sanitation, Health and Hygiene in India - Health Issues India." 2014. 11 Sep. 2016 <<http://www.healthissuesindia.com/2014/02/05/sanitation-health-hygiene-india/>>

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"Water In Crisis - Spotlight India - The Water Project." 2016. 11 Sep. 2016 <<https://thewaterproject.org/water-crisis/water-in-crisis-india>>