

Model United Nations of San Antonio
United Nations Children's Fund

Discussing the impact of child labour on urbanization and creating ways to monitor and regulate laws

I. Statement of the Problem

1. Child Labour is a term that is classified as labor that induces children to be involved within one of multiple characteristics which threaten their emotional or physical development. These characteristics include various areas of the work force and must violate at least one minimum wage pay law, threaten a child's health condition, be considered slave or child trafficking, or prevent school attendance. It is imperative to develop strategies in order to reduce the use of children in improper labour and create new international regulations as the United Nations Children's Fund. ^[1]

2. Urbanization is the growth of a city's urbanized area. Approximately 50% of the world's population is urbanized and is growing at a rate of 1.85% annually. Urbanization is statistically low in the global west asides from Europe and Oceania. ^{[2] [3]}

3. Globally, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia Pacific, and Latin America are the most prevalent countries involved in child labour with 1 in 4 adolescents between the ages of 5-17 working in Sub-Saharan Africa. Although statistics suggest the majority of child workers are male, it is estimated that despite the statistics many females are working under the radar and actually make up roughly 90% of all child workers. ^{[4] [5]}

4. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are many causes contributing to child labour with major factors including poverty and schooling. Many countries have poor families who are desperate to send their children to work, and inadequate schooling leads to pushing adolescents into unfair working conditions. Many families feel as if they have no other choice.

5. Child Labor is a major impediment in obtaining an education. Children's education is a prerequisite to providing for a child's own family which is unable to be obtained from child labor. Poverty and the absence of a child's education leads to physical labour at a young age without benefits. Stuck in this cycle of poverty, children are forced into shanties and/or slums which continue to hinder the

growth of positive urbanization within their country.^{[6][7]}

II. History of the Problem

6. Many attempts have been made by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to put an end to child labour but have not completely succeeded in the sense of being unable to **fully** abolish child labor and the poverty cycle which causes it. UNICEF is currently collaborating with and supporting the Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016 through working to change cultural compliance of child labour. UNICEF advocates for many approaches which **act to end poor working conditions for children** through means of access to health care, better schooling, and alternative means of income for communities.

7. Child labour reinforces intergenerational cycles of poverty, and **UNICEF** has not been able to make **extremely considerable** progress towards the relevant Millennium Development Goals, a blueprint of significant improvement to the world to be made by 2015. In 2000, 191 governments signed, and enacted, the Millennium Development Goals. ^{[5][7]}

III. Potential Solutions

8. In terms of developing potential solutions, delegates are encouraged to:

- Note the role their country plays in child labour and the quality of children's education effecting urbanization
- Compare their country's child labour rates to other states
- Consider what is already being done to provide for child labour and urbanization

IV. Position and Research Tips

9. In order to be a successful delegate you should be able to recognize other countries positions on each topic and your alliances with fellow delegates. Each delegate shall remain authentic to their country's own position on each agenda item. Remember to get information from credible sources while researching. Some helpful links are listed here:

- <http://www.unicef.org/>
- <http://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm>

- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- <http://stopchildlabor.org/>
- <http://www.childinfo.org/>
- <http://www.globalmarch.org/campaigns/index.php>

V. Notes to Delegates

Delegates,

Chairing UNICEF at this year's MUNSA conference is an honor and I assure to you that this will be an amazing year to be delegating with this year's theme and outstanding chairs. The team behind this have put their heart out into this conference and I am so glad to be a part of this family, and to be chairing with my co-chairs Victoria and Eric. We are very pleased with the topics we will discuss in our committee room and are very eager to see the result and the solutions we will be passing together. If any questions need to be answered please contact me here nochoa6760@stu.neisd.net and I would be pleased to assist you on your way to the conference.

-Nicholas Ochoa

VI. References

- [1] Changing the Child Labor Laws for Agriculture: Impact on Injury Barbara Marlenga, PhD, Richard L. Berg, MS, James G. Linneman, BA, Robert J. Brison, MD, and William Pickett, PhD. (n.d.).www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. Retrieved May 23, 2013, from www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1781414/
- [2] FIELD LISTING :: URBANIZATION. (n.d.).<https://www.cia.gov>. Retrieved May 23, 2013, from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2212.html>
- [3] Maplecroft | Home | About Maplecroft | Media room | Maplecroft news | Conflict and economic downturn cause global increase in reported child labour violations – 40% of countries now rated ‘extreme risk’ by Maplecroft. (n.d.).[Maplecroft](http://www.maplecroft.com) | *Home*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from http://maplecroft.com/about/news/child_labour_2012.html
- [4] UNICEF - Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse - Child labour. (n.d.). *UNICEF - UNICEF Home* . Retrieved May 24, 2013, from http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_580

[5] Tackling child labour â A key to progress on the Millennium Development Goals . (n.d.). *International Labour Organization* . Retrieved May 24, 2013, from http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Events/WCMS_144395/lang--en/index.htm

[6] Child Labour and Millennium Development Goals | Global March Against Child Labour. (n.d.). *Global March Against Child Labour | From Exploitation to Education*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://www.globalmarch.org/campaign/child-labour-and-millennium-development-goals>

[7] Child Labour: Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SRO-Moscow). (n.d.). *International Labour Organization* . Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/moscow/areas/ipec/causes.htm>

[8] Changing the Child Labor Laws for Agriculture: Impact on Injury Barbara Marlenga, PhD, Richard L. Berg, MS, James G. Linneman, BA, Robert J. Brison, MD, and William Pickett, PhD. (n.d.). *www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov*. Retrieved May 23, 2013, from www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1781414/