



United Nations Children's Fund
Strengthening the Conventions of the Rights
of the Child (CRC)

Bangalore Junior Model United Nations 2021

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Message from the Bureau

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the UNICEF committee. We are extremely grateful that you have chosen to join the 2021 JMUN. We hope that you are able to experience what we have experienced in the past years and leave with new friends and knowledge. During the committee, we encourage you to speak up as much as possible. Remember, your voice will always be heard by the Bureau. If you are a first-timer or a returning MUNer, we hope that you will leave this committee with a fresh outlook of the world around you.

Even though we are still in the online setting, we will try our best by adapting to this situation and making it similar to the physical setting, ensuring that it will be a memorable JMUN experience for all the delegates.

The co-chairs are Ronav Som Kiran and Gladius Eva James. The moderator is Keerthi Kskm Chalavadi. All of us have previous MUN experience and eagerly look forward to helping enhance your experience.

If you have any questions please email us at bangalorejmun@oakridge.in with the subject line: "UNICEF_Queries" or visit the website at bangalorejmun.in

Remember that the background guide is only a starting point for your research. Please do extra research connecting your country to the agenda.

Sincerely,

The Bureau of the United Nations Children's Fund.

Co-Chairs: Ronav Som Kiran and Gladius Eva James

Moderator: Keerthi Kskm Chalavadi

Description of UNICEF

History:

The United Nations Children's Fund was created by the United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 1946. It was originally established to provide emergency food and healthcare to the countries that had been devastated by World War II. In 1953, UNICEF became a permanent fixture in the United Nations system. Six years later, in 1959, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which defined a child's right to protection, education, health care, shelter, and good nutrition. UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965 for the "promotion of brotherhood among nations." The Convention of the Rights of the Child was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 and entered into force in September of 1990. It became the most widely, and rapidly, accepted human rights treaty in history. In 1990, UNICEF held The World Summit for Children, a summit of Heads of State and Government, at the United Nations in New York City. The summit established 10-year goals for children's health, nutrition, and education. A Special Session on Children of the UN General Assembly was convened to review progress since the World Summit for Children in 1990 and re-energize global commitment to children's rights. It was the first such session devoted exclusively to children and the first to include them as official delegates. Originally named the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF's name was shortened but the acronym UNICEF remained. UNICEF staff is present in over 190 countries and territories, and it has 200 country offices and seven regional offices that carry out the mission of UNICEF.

Purpose:

The purpose of UNICEF is to provide developmental and humanitarian aid and assistance to children and mothers in developing nations. UNICEF works to uphold the Convention of the Rights of the Child and to establish a safe and secure lifestyle for the children of the world.

"We are part of the Global Movement for Children – a broad coalition dedicated to improving the life of every child. Through this movement and events such as the United Nations Special Session on Children, we encourage young people to speak out and participate in the decisions that affect their lives."

UNICEF Mission Statement:

- UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

- UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behavior toward children.
- UNICEF insists that the survival, protection, and development of children are universal development imperatives that are integral to human progress.
- UNICEF mobilizes political will and material resources to help countries, particularly developing countries, ensure a "first call for children" and to build their capacity to form appropriate policies and deliver services for children and their families.
- UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children - victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation, and those with disabilities.
- UNICEF responds in emergencies to protect the rights of children. In coordination with United Nations partners and humanitarian agencies, UNICEF makes its unique facilities for rapid response available to its partners to relieve the suffering of children and those who provide their care.
- UNICEF is non-partisan and its cooperation is free of discrimination. In everything it does, the most disadvantaged children and the countries in greatest need have priority.
- UNICEF aims, through its country programs, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social, and economic development of their communities.
- UNICEF works with all its partners towards the attainment of the sustainable human development goals adopted by the world community and the realization of the vision of peace and social progress enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations

The Agenda

Child Rights

The rights of children are human rights. They safeguard the child's rights as a human being. Children's rights are constituted by fundamental guarantees and important human rights as human rights:

- Children's rights recognise the right to life, the concept of non-discrimination, and the right to dignity via the protection of bodily and mental integrity as essential guarantees to all human beings (protection against slavery, torture, bad treatments, etc.)
- Civil and political rights for children include the right to identification, the right to nationality, and so on.
- Economic, social, and cultural rights of children include the rights to education, the right to a fair standard of living, the right to health, and so on.
- Individual rights of children include the right to live with his or her parents, the right to an education, the right to protection, and so on.
- Collective rights for children include refugee and disabled children, children from minority backgrounds, and children from autochthonous communities.

Children's rights are those that are tailored to the needs of children.

Children's rights are human rights that are tailored to the needs of children, taking into account their fragility, uniqueness, and age-appropriate requirements. Children's rights take into account the importance of a child's growth. As a result, children have the right to live and develop physically and mentally in a healthy manner. The goal for children's rights is to meet the essential needs for a child's healthy growth, such as access to a nutritious diet, necessary care, education, and so on. Children's rights take into account the child's vulnerability. They imply that they must be protected. This entails providing them with special help and protection that is tailored to their age and level of maturity. Therefore, the youngsters must be assisted, supported, and safeguarded against labor exploitation, kidnapping, and ill-treatment, among other things.

The Recognition of Children's rights

In the middle of the 19th century, the idea appeared in France to give children special protection. In 1959 the General Assembly of the UN adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. With the ratification of the Geneva Declaration in 1924, children's rights were recognised after World War I. With the ratification of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959, the UN continued the process of recognising children's rights. The adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the first international legally binding instrument that recognizes all of the child's fundamental rights, made the recognition of the child's interests and rights a reality on November 20, 1989. The year 1979 is declared the International Year of the Child by the UN. It was in this year that Poland made the proposal to create a working group within the Human Rights Commission. This working group was in charge of writing an international charter,

CRCs

What are the Conventions of the Rights of the Child (CRCs)?

The CRCs are an international treaty that identifies the human rights of children. They are a set of rules and regulations put in place to protect children from harm and to keep children safe during dangerous situations. This treaty is created on the basis that children are not just objects that belong to their parents or guardians. Instead, they are individuals with their own set of rights. The convention itself states that childhood is separate from adulthood and lasts until 18: a special as well as a protected time where children are able to grow, learn and play. This convention establishes international laws that verify that all children without discrimination must be able to benefit from protection measures and assistance, obtain access to services like health care and education, grow up in a stable environment with happiness, love, and sympathy, and should be informed about their rights. The convention consists of 4 parts with 54 articles in place.

The CRCs can be thoroughly read on using this link: [OHCHR | Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and <https://www.unicef-irc.org/portfolios/crc.html>

When was the CRC made?

The conventions of the rights of the child were made on 20th November 1989, when the world leaders made a commitment to children around the world by adopting the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child.

Why is the CRC important?

The CRCs are important because it helps the children by being able to protect as well as fulfilling their rights. The convention sets out rights that will be important for the development of

a child to their fullest potential. It also gives the government a set of steps to follow if a child is orphaned, loses his/her identity, commits a crime, etc. Without the CRC, children around the world will not have the basic necessities and services to develop and function. Only a few with access to services will be able to develop, while others may face countless challenges and inequalities, making it difficult for the development of the child. With the CRCs, these services will not just be a luxury enjoyed by a few but instead, they will be available to all children around the world.

How does the CRC affect our lives?

The CRCs affect our lives by making it easier for children to live in society, presenting opportunities to them that are critical for development, ensuring that children are protected even if they do not have the resources. This helps us become educated on children's rights, the problems faced by children, necessities for children to develop, and ways children should be treated. Therefore, it helps in economic development as well as social development and the wellbeing of the population.

Current Situation:

School closures have resulted in increased vulnerability to abuse, stress, and a loss of access to important resources, all of which have harmed children. Not all children, however, have been affected in the same way. The pandemic has exposed long-standing injustices with children in the poorest countries and communities. Those who have always been disadvantaged brunt even greater consequences.

COVID-19 forced more than 1.5 billion pupils, 91 percent of the world's student population, out of school. The crisis has revealed significant gaps in emergency preparedness, children's internet access, and availability of learning materials. Children are not protected by data privacy legislation in the majority of countries. Governments should also take steps to guarantee that children with disabilities are included. After the epidemic, special efforts will be needed to guarantee that children, particularly adolescent girls, return to school. Although no solution will be flawless, the EdTech currently in use – as well as the data it collects – may be able to outlast the current crisis.

Children in nations impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic are more vulnerable to domestic violence. Children's brain development can be harmed by exposure to violence, especially when they are young. School closures may increase the number of unreported incidences of child abuse. Domestic violence has risen dramatically in COVID-19-affected nations. Domestic violence spiked by more than 30% in France's movement-restricted districts. Within the first five days of quarantine, calls to a Tunisian helpline for women suffering abuse increased fivefold.

COVID-19 had claimed the lives of almost 88,000 people worldwide as of April 8. Experts predict that by 2020, the global total will have risen from 10 to 40 million people. A growing

percentage of youngsters will be orphaned or abandoned by their parents or other carers. As donations become limited in Senegal, an estimated 100,000 Talibe children are experiencing increased hunger. Children's shelters and destitute families' shelters may soon become overcrowded.

These children usually do not have constant access to clean water and sanitation services. When possible, UN guidelines support family-based care.

Poverty is linked to a higher rate of chronic health issues, some of which may enhance the risk of COVID-19-related severe illness. Low-income groups are more likely to be infected with the virus, have higher mortality rates, receive poorer health care, and have financial hardships. These financial hardships may cause families in poverty to take extreme measures, forcing children to do labor, or even get married. Every year, 12 million girls marry before they turn 18 years old. Child marriage, like child labor, is frequently motivated by financial hardship. Many households lack the credit or savings necessary to weather financial hardships. Their children may be more likely to enter the workforce if the government does not provide enough support.

Children are more likely to be sexually exploited as a result of economic challenges, school closures, and the loss of parental care. According to animal welfare organisations, the COVID-19 lockdown has created "a perfect storm" for offenders to abuse children. Children's increased online presence, according to the FBI, may put them at greater risk.

Between 1.5 and 8 million children are detained, orphaned, institutionalized, or deprived of their liberty each year. Basic medical treatments are frequently inadequate or unavailable in these circumstances, putting children's health at risk. Child detention for migration-related reasons is never in a child's best interests.

In 2018, an estimated 5.3 million children under the age of five died around the world, most of them from preventable or treatable causes. Access to health care for children has grown even more difficult as a result of COVID-19. School closures have an especially negative impact on children who rely on schools for their health care. A wide range of sexual and reproductive health services could be harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, millions of children's lives may be drastically altered. Increased demand for contraception, unexpected pregnancy, unsafe abortion, and sexually transmitted illnesses could result from service disruptions. Maternal death is the leading cause of death for girls and young women ages 15 to 19. Current or recent pregnancy may increase the risk of serious COVID-19-related complications. The risks specific to pregnant people are not yet clear, but other coronaviruses are linked to adverse pregnancy outcomes.

The first positive case of COVID-19 was reported in the Hubei province in China, in early November of 2019. From China, it spread all around the world. In Bangladesh, the first case was found in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, in late March. Many citizens of Bangladesh are housed in filthy, overcrowded camps with little access to clean water, sanitation, or medical care. Despite this, unaccompanied migrant children are being abandoned by child protection officials in parts

of France. Bangladesh's government has mainly cut off refugees' access to education and the internet, leaving them ill-informed about how to seek medical help. A major epidemic could result in a humanitarian disaster for children. Abuse, exploitation, violence, neglect, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour, and harmful traditional practises, to name a few, are all things that children have the right to be protected from.

Guiding Questions:

- How has your country followed the CRCs?
- Has your country ever failed to follow the CRCs?
- What is your country's position on children's rights?
- What laws does your country have against child labor and abuse?
- What percentage of the children in your country go to school?
- Does your country discriminate against female children?
- Has your country done anything to uphold children's rights?
- What problems are faced by children in your country?
- How has your country adapted to the pandemic situation?
- How has the pandemic affected children in your country?

QARMA

1. What measures have to be taken to strengthen the CRCs?
2. How can the CRCs help children around the world?
3. How can the resolution help children affected by the pandemic?
4. What are the proposed solutions to:
 - a. Countries breaking the CRCs
 - b. Countries having laws opposing the CRCs
 - c. Countries with low economic development not being able to fulfill all of the children's rights
 - d. Countries that have faced loss or problems due to the pandemic
5. How do you ensure that the proposed solutions directly benefit the population of the country?

Position Paper Format

A position paper is a compilation of your research. Writing a position paper is an excellent way to streamline your understanding of a given topic and pinpoint the main ideas that you want to bring up in committee. A position paper is usually divided into 4 sections:

I. General Information

1st Paragraph – Opening Statement (3 – 4 sentences)

Why is this topic important for the committee to address?

Why does your country care about this topic?

What is your country's stance on this topic?

II. Specifics

2nd Paragraph – National Actions (3 – 5 sentences)

Is the topic an issue in your country?

What actions has your country taken to improve or address the issue on a national level?

3rd Paragraph – International Actions (3 – 5 sentences)

How has your country improved or addressed the issues on an international level?

What actions has your country taken on the issues on an international level?

What conventions, treaties and resolutions has your country supported on this issue?

What organizations is your country a member of that addresses this issue?

Can you reference government officials on this issue?

4th Paragraph – Recommendations for Action (4 – 6 sentences)

What role would your country like to see the international community take to address the problem?

What are your country's recommendations to the committee on how to best resolve the issue?

The final, and the most substantial section of your position paper should create the foundation for your participation in the committee. It should first detail your nation's general policy on the key points of contention presented in this background guide. Then, the most important part of your position paper is your presentation or original proposals for how to solve the issues at hand. These should be presented as specific solutions geared towards the nuances of the topic of the position paper. Note that the position paper should not be more than 1 page long. The formatting should be as follows: Font-Times New Roman and Font- 12.

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