

DPS MUN 2025
JODHPUR CHAPTER VIII



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BACKGROUND GUIDE UNICEF

**ACCELERATING GLOBAL ACTION TO END
PREVENTABLE CHILD DEATHS BY 2030**

DPSMUN 2025

Note from the Co-Chair

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this session of the UNICEF committee. As we gather to debate and discuss some of the most pressing issues facing children worldwide, I encourage you to approach this conference with empathy, curiosity, and a willingness to collaborate. UNICEF's mission centers around protecting the rights of children, ensuring their health and education, and providing them with a safe environment to grow. These goals align with the broader objectives of the United Nations to achieve peace, justice, and sustainable development.

In this committee, we will explore issues that require not just theoretical knowledge but also practical and creative solutions. The debates should go beyond merely identifying problems—as delegates must focus on crafting actionable, realistic, and context-sensitive policies. As representatives of your respective countries, remember that diplomacy and negotiation are as critical as research and speech-making. This is a space to practice balancing national interests with the global good.

I urge you to actively listen to others, challenge ideas respectfully, and strive toward consensus-building. Remember that UNICEF, at its core, is about cooperation across borders to ensure that every child has a fair chance at life. Let us work together to replicate this spirit of cooperation in our committee sessions.

I look forward to witnessing thought-provoking debates, innovative resolutions, and most importantly, a display of the passion and responsibility that you, as young leaders, bring to the table.

Sincerely,

Ayushi Bulani

Akhilesh Pratap Singh

Co-Chair, UNICEF

Understanding UNICEF and its role

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), established in 1946, was originally created to provide emergency food and healthcare to children affected by World War II. Today, it operates in more than 190 countries, working on programs related to child survival, education, gender equality, and protection from violence and exploitation. UNICEF's work is crucial in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those linked to poverty, health, education, and inequality.

Key areas of work:

- Child protection from violence, exploitation, and abuse.
- Providing access to quality education for all children.
- Delivering healthcare services, including vaccinations and nutrition.
- Responding to emergencies such as natural disasters, conflicts, and pandemics.

Reliable source: UNICEF Official Website

Global child rights challenges

While progress has been made, millions of children still face challenges to their rights. Issues such as child labor, child marriage, lack of education, malnutrition, and the impact of armed conflict remain widespread. According to UNICEF's 2024 reports, nearly **1 in 4 children** globally live in conflict or disaster zones, where access to education, healthcare, and basic security is compromised.

Major challenges include:

- **Conflict zones:** Ongoing conflicts in regions like Gaza, Sudan, and Yemen have left children vulnerable to displacement, malnutrition, and recruitment by armed groups.
- **Climate change:** Increasing floods, droughts, and extreme weather disproportionately affect children, especially in vulnerable regions such as South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Gender inequality:** Girls continue to face barriers in education and higher risks of child marriage, particularly in rural and low-income communities.

Reliable sources:

- UNICEF – Children in Crisis
- Save the Children Reports

Education as a universal right

Education is one of UNICEF’s top priorities. Yet, according to UNESCO data (2023), **244 million children and adolescents** worldwide are out of school. Barriers include poverty, gender discrimination, conflict, and insufficient infrastructure.

Important points:

- Primary education is not universally free or accessible.
- Refugee and displaced children are among the most excluded.
- Access to digital education remains unequal, with millions lacking internet and devices.

Reliable source: UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report

Impact of climate change on children

Climate change is increasingly recognized as a child rights issue. Children are more vulnerable to heatwaves, water scarcity, air pollution, and food insecurity. For instance, in Bangladesh, rising sea levels and frequent floods displace thousands of children every year.

Important aspects:

- Climate-induced displacement leads to loss of education opportunities.
- Malnutrition increases with declining crop yields.
- Poor air quality directly impacts child health.

Reliable source: UNICEF – Climate Change and Children

Child health and nutrition

Malnutrition is one of the greatest threats to child survival. According to UNICEF’s 2023 data, **45 million children under five** suffer from wasting (acute malnutrition). Meanwhile, vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and polio continue to resurface in areas with weak healthcare systems.

Key focus areas:

- Expanding vaccination programs.
- Tackling both undernutrition and obesity.
- Improving maternal healthcare to reduce infant mortality.

Reliable source: WHO – Child Health

Protection from violence and exploitation

Millions of children worldwide face violence, trafficking, child labor, and recruitment by armed groups. UNICEF estimates that **160 million children** are engaged in child labor globally, with the highest numbers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Issues to consider:

- Weak enforcement of child protection laws.
- Economic pressures pushing families toward child labor.
- Online exploitation and cyber risks.

Reliable source: International Labour Organization (ILO) – Child Labour

Humanitarian emergencies

Humanitarian crises caused by war, natural disasters, and epidemics disproportionately affect children. For example:

- The ongoing war in Ukraine has disrupted the education of over **5 million children**.
- The 2023 Sudan crisis has displaced nearly **3 million children**.
- Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria left thousands of children homeless.

Reliable source: ReliefWeb – Children and Emergencies

Guiding questions

1. How can UNICEF strengthen cooperation with national governments to ensure child rights are protected?
2. What role should developed nations play in financing child-focused initiatives in developing countries?
3. How can education systems be made resilient against conflicts and climate disasters?
4. What legal frameworks are needed to combat child labor and trafficking globally?
5. How can digital tools and AI be used responsibly to expand access to education and healthcare for children?

Recommended resources for research

- UNICEF Annual Report 2024
- Save the Children – State of the World’s Children Report
- World Bank – Education and Child Development
- UNHCR – Refugee Children Data
- International Crisis Group Reports

Committee flow (Chair’s Notes)

Opening the session

1. Chair: *“I hereby call this session of the UNICEF committee to order.”*
2. Motion: *“Motion to open debate.”* → take votes → if passed, debate opens.
3. Announce: *“Position papers will be accepted until the end of the day, via email to the dais.”*

Roll call

- **Present (P)**: May vote yes, no, or abstain.
- **Present and Voting (P&V)**: Cannot abstain; must vote yes or no.

First Session – establishing positions

1. Open the **Speaker’s List** formally.
2. Set speaking time (e.g., 2 minutes per delegate).
3. Begin with opening statements where each delegate outlines their country’s stance.
4. Continue taking names for the Speaker’s List as delegates raise placards.
5. If the list exhausts → call for motions.

Motions

1. Speaker's list

- *Motion to open the Speaker's List with 2 minutes per delegate.*
- Whoever proposes the motion speaks first.

2. Caucuses

- **Moderated Caucus (Mod):** Has a topic + time (e.g., "Motion for a 10-minute moderated caucus on access to vaccines, with 1-minute speaking time per delegate").
 - Chair gives time notifications (halfway & 3/4ths through).
- **Unmoderated Caucus (Unmod):** Lobbying, writing resolutions, informal discussions.

3. Draft resolutions (DRs)

- Must have **Sponsors** (authors) and **Signatories** (supporters).
- Introduced by reading the draft out loud + displayed for committee.
- Motion to discuss the DR.
 - **Amendments:**
 - *Friendly* → agreed by all sponsors, no vote needed.
 - *Unfriendly* → requires debate + vote.
 - Sponsors may withdraw the DR if opposed to amendments.
- **Voting Procedure:**
 - Chair: "We are now in voting procedure for Draft Resolution X."
 - Roll call vote (Yes / No / Abstain).

4. Suspending or adjourning debate

- Motion to suspend debate → for lunch/break/end of day.

Points (delegate tools)

- **Point of Inquiry:** To clarify rules/procedures.
- **Point of Personal Privilege:** For personal comfort (e.g., "Could the delegate please speak louder?").
- **Point of Information (PoI):** To ask another delegate a question (must be accepted by the speaker).
- **Point of Order:** To signal a procedural error.
- **Right of Reply:** If a delegate feels insulted.

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