

NMUN•NY 2021



5 – 8 April 2021

Documentation of the Work of the General Assembly Third
Committee (GA3) NMUN Simulation*



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General Assembly Third Committee (GA3)

Committee Staff

Director	Kiki Tamis-Noordman
Assistant Director	Tara Kwan
Chair	Fayrouz Ibrahim

Agenda

- I. Rights of Indigenous People
- II. Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth
- III. Implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
GA3/1/1	Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth	Adopted without a vote
GA3/1/2	Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth	Adopted without a vote
GA3/1/3	Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth	42 votes in favor, 5 votes against, 0 abstentions
GA3/1/4	Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth	Adopted without a vote
GA3/1/5	Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth	39 votes in favor, 8 votes against, 0 abstentions

Summary Report

The General Assembly Third Committee held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Rights of Indigenous People
- II. Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth
- III. Implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The session was attended by representatives of 53 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, I, and III, beginning discussion on the topic of “Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 5 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics including mechanisms in education, adequate mental and physical healthcare, and mobilizing efforts towards institutional changes necessary for protecting conflict-affected children and endorsing employment opportunities for youth. The overall tone of debate in committee was one of collaboration and consensus. Because of the virtual nature of the meeting, the body focused more on the quality of their papers, rather than on the process of merging, even though this idea was discussed by some members.

On Thursday, 5 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which had amendments. The committee adopted 5 resolutions following voting procedure, 3 of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including educational reforms, implementation of existing UN policies and programs, efforts towards inclusivity, ICTs, and involvement in decision-making processes. The body worked consistently and collaboratively, being diligent in speeches, and sharing a diverse range of well-researched ideas and proposals.

Code: GA3/1/1

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

Topic: Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth

The General Assembly Third Committee,

Highlighting the Incheon Declaration (2015), which guides Member States in implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, quality education, as COVID-19 has disrupted the implementation of SDG 4, especially in conflict-affected areas,

Emphasizing Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on “Youth, Peace, and Security” outlining the right of political representation and civil empowerment of conflict-affected youth and children, especially during times of conflict,

Deeply disturbed that, according to United Nations News, that the Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict states that more than 12,000 children were killed or maimed in 2018,

Guided by Articles 28, 29, 38, and 39 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989), which calls for the empowerment of children through promoting human rights in education and advising Member States to promote physical and psychological recovery of conflict-affected, intersectional children and youth respectively,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), specifically SDG 3, good health and well-being; SDG 4, quality education; SDG 8, decent work and economic growth, and SDG 16 peace, justice and strong institution, which highlights the importance of creating opportunities for children and youth to have a voice and be safe while in areas of conflict,

Considering that one in 10 children worldwide lives in fragile conflict-affected areas according to UNICEF’s 2019 Water Under Fire Report, which can result in traumatic stress affecting the physical and mental development of these youth,

Acknowledging the Declaration of the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understand between Peoples (1965), The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and the Convention of the Involvement in Armed Conflict (2002), which key principles includes human rights, education, dignity, cultural exchange, the role of youth organizations and the family, by creating tolerance between peoples to emphasize cultural experience within Member States,

Considering that childhood and adolescence are in critical stages of life for mental health and that the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates in a 2020 report on Adolescent mental health that 50% of mental health conditions start by age 14,

Reaffirming the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016) which states that the movement of people should be safe and orderly as children fleeing conflict are more vulnerable to violence while displaced,

Deeply concerned that, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) 2019 Lost at Home Report, there are currently 3.8 million children displaced due to conflict as conflict-affected children and youth are subjected to child labor, child marriages, and trafficking and all Member States must protect children from these human rights violations,

Observing that over 79.5 million people were forcefully displaced in 2019 according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2019, while 17 million children were displaced in 2018 due to conflict as recorded by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), which continues to grow as the number reaches 33 million forcibly displaced children in 2019,

Alarmed that, according to UNESCO’s Leading SDG 4 - Education 2030, more than 262 million children and youth are out of school and six out of ten children still lack basic literacy numeracy after years of schooling,

1. *Suggests the United Nations Education, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) utilize its educational expertise to assist all Member States in providing its Ministries of Education, Educators, and schools with COVID-19 protection and prevention resources to assist in the reopening of schools to protect children and youth from experiencing violent situations while out of school;*

2. *Further Recommends* the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to revive its Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace for another 5-year cycle, that focuses on increasing recreational opportunities and programs that give children and youth opportunities to be more engaged members of their society, by initiatives such as mock governments, environmental clean-up, music, sports, and education programs;
3. *Expresses support* for the facilitation of training facilities conducted by UNESCO Regional Offices for educators to promote SDG 4 and tolerance throughout regions in the context of peace education for children and youth affected by conflict;
4. *Urges* UNDP Civil Society Advisory Committee (CSAC) to collaborate more closely with Member States at the grassroots level, Youth Civil Organizations to promote holistic, thorough training of persons providing care to children and youth affected by conflict by teaching them how to implement the SDGs to promote sustainable development thus instilling peace, justice, and strong institutions;
5. *Encourages* the expansion of healthcare, both physical and mental, programs within Member States for child and youth refugees from conflict-affected areas, who are more vulnerable to the Six Grave Violations, as well as encourage Member States to collaborate with the WHO to provide healthcare initiatives for children and youth currently in conflict-affected areas, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Psychological evaluations and treatment for trauma-based disorders,
 - b. Treatment for physical injuries, and
 - c. Assistance with disabilities resulting from conflict;
6. *Asks* Member States who have not signed, to sign and ratify treaties and protocols to protect children and youth in conflict-affected areas, especially:
 - a. The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989),
 - b. the *Convention of the Involvement in Armed Conflict* (2002), and
 - c. the *Declaration of the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals Peace* (1965);
7. *Further recommends* Member States to have better psychological support systems in collaboration with WHO, considering conflict-affected children and youth face a deprivation of basic needs that prevent them from having a positive psychological development and mental health, aiming at:
 - a. Promoting community-based mental health and psychological activities,
 - b. Fostering any activity that can help the children and youth escaping the burden of their situation;
8. *Reaffirms* Security Council resolution 2286 (2016) condemning attacks on medical facilities, which is one of the six Grave Violations, and encourages Member States to continue ensuring the respect and protection of all medical and humanitarian personnel, means of transport and equipment, hospitals, and other medical facilities in order to:
 - a. Facilitate safe delivery of medical assistance, and;
 - b. Provide medical care guided by the WHO to children and youth affected by conflict, especially vulnerable, intersectional populations;
9. *Recommends* UNICEF to work with Member States and local foreign populations for comprehensive multilingual training of refugees and displaced conflict-affected children;
10. *Expresses its hope* that Member States continue to work with UNHCR to allow children and youth fleeing conflict to enter the education system by:
 - a. Integrating students, who have been displaced due to conflict, into the education system at the appropriate grade levels by providing placement testing for students so that they may flourish and learn wherever they may be displaced, and;

- b. Helping refugee students to obtain proper documentation through the UNHCR, in accordance with the *Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1951), such as birth certificates and educational records;
- 11. *Advises* Member States to implement UNESCO's *Education 2030 Agenda* to help develop resilient and responsive education systems in the face of conflict by:
 - a. Providing guidance to governments towards committing to achievable goals, and;
 - b. Ensuring equitable and inclusive education to increase learning opportunities for all children.

Code: GA3/1/2

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

Topic: Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth

The General Assembly Third Committee,

Recalling that the Member States who are party to the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) have determined to aid future generations in their quest to complete self-determination,

Recognizing Article 1 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) which gives all humans, including children, equal rights that are inherent to all youth regardless of race, culture, gender or country,

Reaffirming Articles 4, 19, and 38 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) (1989) which gives Member States the rights to take appropriate actions to protect children from violence and further prevents any action toward a child that could lead to psychological effects and mental health issues,

Expressing appreciation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with their call to leave no child behind, emphasizing SDG 4 on quality education, which promotes track of development for children of ages 36-59 months and quality for youth to have lifelong learning opportunities,

Expressing concern that, according to Save the Children, at least 100,000 babies die every year due to conflict and that they are not provided the physical support or protection they need,

Acknowledging that the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) called for community-based mental health and psychosocial activities to promote a nurturing recovery for nearly 250 million youth living in conflict-affected countries that are exposed to war, sexual abuse, and other traumatic events that can leave behind lasting psychological effects,

Fully acknowledging the importance of working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international governmental organizations (IGOs) to develop programs targeted toward mental health services,

Cognizant that, according to UNICEF, about 400 million children live in countries affected by conflict and are facing the side effects of that which heightens the need to empower and protect them,

Noting with concern that 4-21% of children globally have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), that 15-20% of crisis-affected populations develop mild mental disorders, and 3-4% of crisis-affected populations develop severe mental disorders according to the 2015 Global Burden of Disease study,

Declares the importance of reintegration programmes as essential to helping all youth who have been recruited to the armed forces in returning to society in a peaceful manner with access to a temporary place to live, family tracing and reunification, as well as psychosocial support,

Further noting the work that UNICEF has done in the development of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programmes standards to provide children and youth with adequate care and support to stop drivers of child recruitment,

Taking into consideration the *Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples* (1965), that highlights the important part that young people play in every field of human endeavor and the necessities of spaces for youth empowerment to become a main character with a voice to be heard,

Concerned about youth not being actively involved in various leadership and authoritative positions that inspire confidence, concurrent to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (UN DESA) World Programme of Action for Youth (2010),

Alarmed by the youth's lack of trust towards public and political institutions, as shown in the World Bank's 2015 report *Breaking the Barriers to Youth Inclusion*,

Stressing the importance of child empowerment programmes and initiatives, as laid down in the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's 2018 report *Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders*,

Considering with satisfaction the important role which children play in the decision-making process, as reiterated in the 2003 General Assembly resolution 58/133 on “Policies and Programmes Involving Youth,”

Acknowledges the Member States raising awareness on social network platforms of organizations, programmes, and competitions addressing global issues, such as Model United Nations, in schools and universities,

Considering the Security Council Resolution 2286 (2016) on “protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel in armed conflict” where it was recommended that hospitals and schools continue to be respected in regard to the special protection that they are afforded,

Keeping in mind Article 5 of the *Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict* (1974) which prohibits forms of repression and cruel and inhumane treatment of children,

Mindful of the fact that the Straight-18 principle promoted in the *Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children and Armed Conflict* which emphasizes the interdiction the recruitment of children under 18 years old,

1. *Requests* that Member States conduct action and affairs for conflict-affected children’s standard of living and education locally in accordance to SDG 4 - noting the remaining objectives left to be met:
 - a. Ensuring equal necessary life skills for all young women and men entering the workforce including affordable technical, vocational, and tertiary education, and;
 - b. Challenges impacting learning assessment outcomes across low and middle-income countries, causing children to read at minimum learning proficiency;
2. *Suggests* that Member States reestablish the promise of the UDHR and its propositions towards education for conflict-afflicted youth;
3. *Fully support* certification from local health authorities of mental health professionals in conflict-affected Member States to ensure children can access counseling services from those with similar social and cultural beliefs and to equip educational professionals the knowledge to effectively recognize mental health issues;
4. *Appeals* to Member States to either continue or start cooperating with NGOs and IGOs that specialize in providing mental health services and programmes targeted towards conflict-affected children and youth;
5. *Further requests* Member States administer educational guidelines on how to empower children to get involved in their community such as by:
 - a. Applying the 2015 *Basic Guide to Open Educational Resources*, and;
 - b. With potential implementation by UNESCO;
6. *Proposes* Member States implement and support Principle 9 in the *Declaration of the Rights of the Child* that enforces the protection of infants during times of conflict, neglect and cruelty to diminish infancy death rates;
7. *Calls on* the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide more up to date research on PTSD and other mental health issues afflicting conflict-affected children so the scope of mental health issues can be better understood;
8. *Further recommends* UNDP work with Member States to create a yearly report on the progress of reintegration programmes for youth in conflict-affected areas that will be:
 - a. Providing Member States with reliable numbers that bring attention to the dangers of war on youth;
 - b. Leading to more efficient policymaking, and;
 - c. Advocating for Member States to share information on essential centers and communication technologies regarding reintegration programmes;

9. *Recommends* Member States implement programmes modeled after the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration strategies to help children and youth soldiers reintegrate back into society in order to:
 - a. Prevent child and youth recruitment to the armed forces;
 - b. Provide children with access to education and necessary life skills, and;
 - c. Ensure that the children and youth who have been reintegrated back into society see alternative ways of life besides those through the paths that involve armed forces;
10. *Encourages* Member States to work with the Risk Community and Communication Engagement (RCCE), strategy launched by WHO, UNICEF and International of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), in order to ensure the inclusion of conflict-affected youth in the national plans to face COVID-19 pandemic and future crises in order to include vulnerable groups, through:
 - a. Addressing the needs of youth in assessments through the engagement of young people as responders and partners, collecting data on sex, age, and disability to allow for targeted RCCE activities for vulnerable population;
 - b. Making information and communication material more comprehensible and accessible, and;
 - c. Providing information and adequate access to psychosocial issues to help them reduce their anxiety and tensions;
11. *Invites* Member States to connect through a conference, modeled after International Year of Youth on Dialogue and Mutual Understand (2010-2011), that promotes social inclusion and a safe space in which conflict-affected youth are able to freely become agents of change by:
 - a. Aiding the establishment of youth-led programmes, as well as networking platforms with the support of NGOs, as well as schools and universities;
 - b. Recognizing these programmes and platforms, as well as peer-led organizations, and;
 - c. Promoting annual competitions in which young people can present projects with the support of NGOs, private sectors, civil society organizations, government and local authorities;
12. *Draws attention* to the need for Member States to foster mentorship programmes in law and policy, police forces, medical care, and various additional fields to encourage youth leadership in all areas of authority to be:
 - a. Inspiring confidence in conflict-affected youth to take charge in their communities, and;
 - b. Building a stable foundation for future leadership by encouraging youth involvement in all areas where decisions are being made;
13. *Calls upon* UNDP and UNICEF to commission reports with relevant stakeholders, including men and women of any age, leaders within the community, national organizations and groups related to the protection of child soldiers, youth and human rights, as well as media platforms, in order to facilitate the implementation of strategies to prevent and eliminate the recruitment of child soldiers;
14. *Further invites* the UNDP to research the current state of legal processes to protect the rights of conflict-affected children and youth in all Member States;
15. *Further recommends* for all Member States to work on a local level to provide conflict-affected children and youth with safe spaces in hospitals and schools;
16. *Suggests* Member States implement programmes modeled after the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration to help children and youth soldiers reintegrate back into society in order to:
 - a. Prevent child and youth recruitment to the armed forces;
 - b. Provide children access to education, life skills, and an impactful role in society, and;

- c. Ensure that the children and youth who have been reintegrated back into society see alternative ways of life besides those through the paths that involve armed forces.

Code: GA3/1/3

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

Topic: Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth

The General Assembly Third Committee,

Deeply concerned by the lack of enforcement of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) (1989), which guarantees the right to protection from violence; the right to health, water, food, and environment; the right to social and economic help; the right to food, clothing, a safe home, and access to education; and the right to protection from exploitation, which are especially important for children and youth affected by conflict,

Emphasizes that the CRC is only effective if Member States commit to outside accountability and internal improvement,

Guided by the principles put forward in the CRC, taking specific notice of Article 39 which asks Member States to take appropriate measures to promote the physical and psychological recovery of a child victim of armed conflict in an environment that fosters the health, self-respect, and dignity of the child,

Noting with regret the grave violations committed against children, by forcing them to serve in armed forces, as outlined in the *Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups* (The Paris Principles) (2007),

Reaffirming article 22 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) that states the importance of international cooperation as a mechanism to help people overcome difficult situations, through the responsible exchange of useful information in addressing the violence putting children and youth at a disadvantage,

Acknowledges the cooperative efforts by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in establishing entrepreneurship programmes in African Member States,

Acknowledges previous work of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) towards facilitating education in a partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which is known as the broadband commission,

Highlights that according to the ITU, 49% of the world does not have internet access, putting conflict-affected children and youth at a greater disadvantage due to the COVID-19 pandemic-induced distance learning,

Considering that in the next decade, 475 million new jobs would need to be created in the future to absorb the current 73 million currently unemployed youth and the 40 million new annual entrants to the labor market, according to the *Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training* (TVET) (2016),

Taking into account the relevance of the TVET scheme from UNESCO and the International Project on Technical and Vocational Education (UNESCO-UNEVOC) in contributing to the priorities of the UN Youth Strategy 2030 in supporting youth people's access to decent work and productive employment,

Highlights the importance of all Member States to ensure that safety standards concerning transportation and infrastructures are being fully and effectively implemented and respected in order to assure that every child is efficiently protected while attending educational institutions,

Deeply concerned by the lack of clear national and local policies that protect children and youth in conflict-affected areas, which creates obstacles concerning the implementation of certain United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), bringing specific attention to SDG 4, since armed conflicts have decreased safe and efficient access to quality education for children and youth due to ongoing violence,

Recognizing that UNESCO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have established distance learning solutions for the integration of education for conflict-affected children and youth,

Reaffirming UNICEF's *Core Commitments*, taking specific notice of commitment 1.4.1 to ensure that humanitarian services are made more accessible for conflict-affected children and youth in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Recognizes that whilst children in conflict zones are already vulnerable to harm and violations of their basic rights, children and youth from conflict-affected indigenous communities are at a further disadvantage in regard to underrepresentation and injustice,

Noting with deep concern that according to a factsheet prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, conflict-affected children and youth are often recruited in conflict, killed, maimed, abducted, and victims of rape and sexual violence, and their situations are further exacerbated by poverty, unemployment, and poor governance,

1. *Fully supports* the revival of the *Empowered Youth, Sustainable Development Programme* which was initiated by the UNDP, and:
 - a. Recommends the creation of a report on technical assistance provided and needed towards the empowerment of conflict-affected children by UNICEF,
 - b. Recommends that assistance includes:
 - i. Training police and military in effective conflict resolution as a protective measure for the youth;
 - ii. Drafting and implementing legislation safeguarding children and youth, and;
 - c. Recommends sharing data among Member States and the UN regarding ongoing conflicts in order to improve our understanding and response;
2. *Encourages* Member States, given their prior commitments to the CRC, to consistently report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and strengthen their own internal reporting to implement the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child;
3. *Encourages* Member States to implement political youth councils that interact with national governments in passing legislation for the post-conflict peacebuilding process and for issues that affect young people, modeling after the United Nations Security Council resolution 2250, or the *Progress Study on Youth, Peace, and Security*, and:
 - a. Consider creating organizations that represent the political interests of youth in order to support youth political participation and allow youth to regain trust in post-war institutions,
 - b. Examine the formation of the United Nations Student Taskforce Addressing Recovery (UNSTAR):
 - i. Comprised of young adults from areas currently affected by conflicts who are given a platform that allows for the amplification of voices to ensure that conflict recovery efforts include the opinions of those directly affected;
 - ii. Aids the composition of data and guidelines for future aid frameworks as to ensure such voices and opinions are always acknowledged;
4. *Requests* Member States who have not previously upheld The Paris Principles (2007) to do so, and:
 - a. Asks Member States to take into account all factors which may persuade children to join armed forces to help prevent future recruitment;
 - b. Encourages Member States to aim for the inclusion of provisions in peace agreements on the release and treatment of children, and;
 - c. Further recommends Member States to conduct research into the stigmatization of newly released children from militias to help children reintegrate into their communities and families;
5. *Recommends* the World Health Organization to gain information from Member States in order to collect it and make a better approach in regard to conflict-affected children and youth, taking into regards the disproportionate effect that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on this group;

6. *Recommends* that the UNDP creates an entrepreneurial support program for conflict-affected children and youth that acts as a startup incubator for them specifically, to assist them with entering the job market in accordance with UNDP's previous entrepreneurial efforts in African Member States;
7. *Encourages* Member States to further strengthen and initiate their cooperation with the Broadband commission to assist in providing technological assistance and facilitation within the field of education, focusing on education for children and youth in conflict-affected areas;
8. *Further encourages* Member States to adopt distance learning solutions provided by UNESCO, specifically Self-Directed learning content modules that should be facilitated by Member States for conflict-affected children and youth, that would allow them access to vocational education, in order to enter job markets;
9. *Recommends* the joint cooperation between Member States and the Broadband Commission to establish a micro broadband network tower toolkit that would allow easier facilitation of education in areas of conflict, for easier remote access;
10. *Invites* Member States to create and develop action plans in accordance with, and guided by, the priorities established on the UNESCO-UNEVOC TVET with a focus on human rights, sustainability, and youth empowerment, a component in human rights education is suggested for inclusion in the educational curricula present in the action plans;
11. *Recommends* the Committee on the Rights of the Child to provide a report on the protection of educational facilities during and after conflict, in accordance with the *Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities From Military Use during Armed Conflict* of the *Safe Schools Declaration*;
12. *Encourages* all Member States to join the 59 Member States that committed to following the initiative of the global ceasefire that was called for in 2020 by Secretary-General António Guterres in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to redirect humanitarian aid and resources, as conflict-affected children and youth have already been hindered with accessibility to such aid;
13. *Suggests* that Member States implement and enforce the United Nations Industrial Development Organization reports concerning the development of sustainable infrastructures, in order to have safe buildings that will ensure efficient access to educational institutions to each child affected by conflict, such as but not limited to:
 - a. Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development;
 - b. Quality infrastructures for Sustainable Development, and;
 - c. Rebooting quality infrastructures for a sustainable future;
14. *Suggests* Member States make effective use of UNICEF's radio-based learning programs and UNESCO's television-based distance learning programs in order to advance the goals of:
 - a. Educating children about sanitary care regarding COVID-19;
 - b. Ensuring the safety of children from the potential spread of COVID-19 via prevention of spread during in-person classes;
 - c. Preventing children from being harmed during their transit to school and prevents potential harm due to kidnapping and/or sexual assault;
15. *Recommends* UNICEF to share institutional knowledge on the participation and inclusion of conflict-affected indigenous youth and extend their adolescent development and participation program to youth from indigenous populations;
16. *Calls for* Member States to consider adhering to the United Nations Capital Development Fund and UNICEF Child and Youth Finance Movement including participation to the Child Youth and Finance summit and implementation of summit recommendations;

17. *Urges* Member States to consider the policies framed by the Youth Employment Programme (YEP) of the ILO in the context of conflict-affected youth employment for:
- a. Offering youth living in poverty and deprived of a secure source of employment, especially in conflict-affected areas, a chance to work in the economic development sector so they are engaged in their communities and can save money to support their education and families;
 - b. Monitoring youth safety to ensure they are not subject to physical or mental harm by their employers;
 - c. Offering guidance to youth on skills development and financial management, and
 - d. Gathering latest data and statistics on youth employment, unemployment, and underemployment, within and among Member States.

Code: GA3/1/4

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

Topic: Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth

The General Assembly Third Committee,

Recalling the Article II of *Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC)* (1989) advising Member States to consider the best interest of the child through non-discrimination and by providing the proper action framework concerning children,

Further Recalling Article 37 section B of the *CRC* suggesting that the deprivation of liberty of children and youth, including the arrest, detention, or imprisonment, be used only as a matter of last resort,

Stressing the need to support Member States to build up stable and strong state institutions that align with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 to promote peaceful and inclusive societies that can take care of the needs of children and youth, through access to justice for all,

Deeply concerned by the stigmatization created and heightened through the use of criminal legal venues in addressing the plights of vulnerable children and youth, highlighted in General Assembly resolution 68/198 (2013) on “Model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice”,

Recognizing forced displacement as an effect of conflict, and the multitude of effects that displacement has on children and youth, including malnutrition, homelessness, loss of educational opportunities, and child-labor which has led to 19 million children being displaced in 2019 alone, as stated in the *2020 Lost at Home Report* published by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF),

Guided by General Assembly resolution 74/133 (2019) “On the rights of the child” and resolution 70/127 (2016) on “Policies and programmes that involve youth” in their call to further protect youth in regions of armed conflict,

Acknowledging the Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) both on “Youth, Peace & Security” to support youth engagement in international peace and security,

Reaffirming in the context of conflict-affected children and youth, General Assembly resolution 71/167 (2016) on “Trafficking in women and girls” which condemns the act of trafficking women and children,

Taking into account the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) ’ *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons - in the context of armed conflict* (2018) list of factors that increase the vulnerability to trafficking persons in armed conflict including state collapse, forced displacement, humanitarian need and social fragmentation,

Further taking into account the UNODC’s *An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact and Action* (2008) that armed conflicts create a climate of impunity which encourages traffickers to prey on vulnerable populations, especially young people and children who are among those at the highest risk of being subjected to trafficking in conflict zones,

Noting with approval the Youth Power Program (2009-2013), a joint effort of 12 United Nations organisations working together whose aim was to promote peacebuilding between youth that have been affected by conflict,

Recognizing the Small Grants Initiative included in the Youth Power program, focused on creating funding for research, dialogue exchanges, festivals and entrepreneurship as well as promoting social entrepreneurship as an alternative option for creativity and productivity between the unemployed youth between the ages of 15 to 24 who reside in Member States,

Discerning the financial implications that make children and youth susceptible to recruitment into conflict, exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted by the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development’s *Financing for Sustainable Development Report* (2020), as well as the benefits that gainful employment and entrepreneurship has on the social mobility and empowerment of older children and youth,

Fully aware that, as cited in Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict: Human Rights Council 46/39 (2019), the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unimaginable number of children to not be able to attend school who are at risk of becoming more heavily influenced by outside forces wishing to recruit them for military use,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations has verified at the end of 2019 there were more than 170,000 violations against children involved in some form of conflict leading to more than 45 violations every day for ten years,

Expressing specific appreciation for the Article I of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which declares that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and Article XXV which states that all children shall enjoy the same social protection,

Recalling Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Report on the World Social Situation (2016) that highlights the best practices and principles for the social inclusion of neglected children and youth, particularly those affected by conflict,

Taking into consideration more than 20% of the world's youth live in conflict-affected areas, presenting a serious challenge to children and youth's livelihoods and challenging the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Expressing concern about the fact that over 400 million children live within Member States that have been affected by violent conflicts, displacement and also put into various orphanages for their safety which has affected their education, protection and also their health according to the report UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (2019) on children in conflict and war,

1. *Encourages* Member States to achieve SDG 16.2 on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by implementing the proposals made by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children in the *Keeping the Promise: Ending Violence Against Children by 2030* report by:
 - a. Strengthening legal and policy frameworks;
 - b. Reinforcing the protective shield around children;
 - c. Conducting more and better data and research;
 - d. Widening partnerships building the global movement to end violence against children, and;
 - e. Amplifying the voice of children;
2. *Recommends* all Member States to become a member of Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC);
3. *Further encourages* Member States to implement the UNHCR's Educate A Child Program that is focused on human, social, and economic development through education with an aim of increasing the quality of education and supporting innovative ideas towards, education, infrastructure, teacher training, and development and works with partners to address children affected by conflict;
4. *Recommends* Member States to incorporate opportunities such as United Nations partner program Youth Business International (YBI), aimed at generating entrepreneurship programs as well as the promotion of peacebuilding activities between conflict affected youth;
5. *Encourages* that Member States conduct in regional information sharing activities under the monitoring of General Assembly Third Committee by utilizing emerging technologies for the purposes of but not limited to:
 - a. Sharing collective databases that are extracted from partnerships with UNESCO that contain information on conflict affected children and youth, and;
 - b. Sharing the best practices for infrastructure methods that are extracted from partnerships with the International Labor Organization (ILO) targeted towards facilitating jobs and education in areas of previous conflict or ongoing conflict;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to consider alternatives to the judicial legal system for children impacted by or engaged in conflict that recognizes their victimization, as encouraged by Section 21 of Security Resolution 2427 (2018) on “Children in Armed Conflict”, and further to create appropriate mechanisms for the reintegration into society of both children and youth impacted by all forms of conflict;
7. *Recommends* that UNDESA’s Division of Social Inclusive Social Development on the organization of sensitization workshops to understand how to include conflict-affected children and youth in institutional decision making for policymakers, to ensure that conflict-affected children and youth are protected, and their specific issues are taken into consideration in decision-making processes;
8. *Strongly encourages* the Member States to work towards ending stigmatization and criminalization of young conflict-affected trafficking victims through increased anti-trafficking legislation and providing adequate social services to victims;
9. *Strongly advises* Member States to enhance the General Assembly World Programme of the Action for Youth (WPAY) in schools that previously implemented the programme by:
 - a. Expanding school programs by establishing universal grade-level academic expectations ensuring all children and youth to have equal access to basic education, and;
 - b. Establishing partnerships with businesses and corporations on an international level to offer fellowships to students allowing opportunity for future employment;
10. *Recommends* Member States to reinforce efforts on promoting the SDGs in order to continue progress, specifically, SDG 3, 4, 5, 8, and 16 as they pertain to conflict-affected children and youth by:
 - a. Keeping in mind Member States’ sovereignty in raising funds for existing programs, Member States should continue implementing the 2030 SDGs to what best fits their regional needs, and;
 - b. Support and add to the progress made on SDGs, including that made by UNICEF and UNDP;
11. *Strongly suggests* Member States incorporate key recommendations put forward by the United Nations’ *Policy for Post-Conflict Employment Creation, Income Generation and Reintegration* (2009) in regard to data collection and reform surrounding systemic obstacles and lack of resources required for gainful employment including:
 - a. Encouraging the availability and diversification of employment opportunities in the range from service level, to vocational, to professional—all with continual implementation of positive workplace environment standards and fair wages that restricts child labor and protects children and youth of occupational age, including:
 - i. Career services and centers, as well as counselors, becoming accessible from an early age to prepare children and guide youth;
 - ii. Access to ongoing apprenticeship programs and vocational training with a pipeline towards employment;
 - iii. Employment opportunities to new parents, particularly new mothers, who shall also gain prioritization with welfare assistance programs regardless of their employment status;
 - b. Continually reducing discriminatory requirements set against youth and new parents in loan granting processes, and prioritizing financial assistance to drive entrepreneurial initiative and financial stability;
12. *Recommends* Member States seek the expertise of, and utilize existing programs of UNICEF, Save the Children, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Food Bank in order to alleviate the effects of conflict that children and youth are facing globally by:
 - a. Expanding safe environments as primary residence for conflict-affected children;
 - b. Improving education, health care, nutrition, and protection standards, and;

- c. Sponsoring conflict-affected children from Member States via ongoing programs through Save the Children and WFP;
- 13. *Calls for* stronger cooperation between the Member States and the United Nations to increase efforts to train youth as peacebuilders;
- 14. *Suggests* Member States utilize the UN Institute for Training and Research's Youth Empowerment Faction's research from the progress study *The Missing Peace* (2016) to be more inclusive of conflict affected youth and children empowerment by promoting courses regarding youth-led reconciliation and conflict transformation in order to work with families with young children and larger communities in addition to children and youth.

Code: GA3/1/5

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

Topic: Empowering Conflict-Affected Children and Youth

The General Assembly Third Committee,

Highlights the issues conflict-affected children face in the realms of education, health care, and inclusion of minority groups of children and youth, as is consistent with the purpose of General Assembly Third Committee, as articulated in Article 13 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945),

Calling attention to conflict-affected youth in fragile contexts, whilst reaffirming General Assembly resolution 71/177, as promoting rights for children will improve the wellbeing of children and the future of world peace,

Affirming the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989) which provides all children the right to peace, education, freedom, equality, and justice, as well as promoting the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948),

Recalling the 2018 United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child report emphasizing education and healthcare as a means of empowerment for children and adolescents experiencing repeated cycles of conflict,

Deeply concerned that over the last 15 years, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Grave Violations against Children of Armed Conflict documented 250,000 grave violations against children in armed conflict, including the recruitment and use of 77,000 children, and the killing and maiming of more than 100,000 children,

Alarmed that the 2020 *Gender Matters Report* found that 415 million children worldwide were living in conflict-affected areas, with 149 million of these living in high-intensity areas,

Worried that, as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs noted in the Youth, Political Participation and Decision-Making Fact Sheet, only 1.65% of parliamentarians around the world are in their 20's,

Keeping in mind that not all Member States are fully committed to the Committee on the Rights of the Child Internal Reporting System,

Anxious that violent conflicts drastically increase the vulnerability and potential for harm and death of children and youths, as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) verified in a press release from December 20, 2019, over 170,000 grave violations against children in conflict since the start of the decade, which is 45 violations per day for 10 years,

Fully aware that in 2019, there were 1.6 billion children affected by conflict according to PRIO's document *Children Affected by Armed Conflict, 1990-2019* (2019),

Keeping in mind the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the ones referring to malnutrition, education, gender inequality and justice, peace and strong institutions, which are areas in which conflict-affected children and youth are more likely to suffer from inequalities,

Acknowledging that the lack of access to proper food and nourishment can be a barrier to receiving a quality education,

Noting with concern the affirmation, in a press release of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, that 690 million people are still hungry, and that 122 million of those people are from countries affected by conflict,

Calls attention to the 250,000 child soldiers in the world and encourages the work the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* does for these vulnerable children bound by violence and war in conflict-affected areas,

Deeply conscious of the number of children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and how being affected by conflict exacerbates this issue due to low healthcare access,

Recognizes the importance of working with schools to ensure safe ways for children to return to schools amidst the COVID-19 pandemic through grassroots efforts,

Applauding the efforts of UNICEF's Child-Friendly Cities Initiative, focusing on giving better opportunities to conflict-affected children and youth lives,

Bearing in mind UNICEF's flagship publication, *The State of the World's Children*, as the report has provided the most comprehensive analysis of global trends affecting children,

Expressing concern that the most vulnerable members of our societies are not adequately protected and cared for,

Guided by the UN Women's *Strategic plan 2018-2021* (2018) that highlights the strategic approaches and directions that need to be taken to empower all women and girls in conflict-affected areas and underlines gender equality as a foundation for a peaceful world,

Deeply taking into consideration the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) (1979) that is a cornerstone of all UN Women Programmes and how it empowers conflict-affected girls and young women,

Promoting Article 16 of the CEDAW, which obligates states to ensure that women have the same right to freely choose to enter a marriage, as child marriage decreases access to empowerment opportunities such as work and education opportunities, as noted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in their resolution 26/22 of 2 April 2014,

Recognizing the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women, Peace and Security", that put emphasis on how women are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence and reaffirms the need to empower them, as they are more vulnerable to discrimination on the global scale and be subject to particular protection in times of armed conflicts,

Acknowledging the importance of food and nourishment for the empowerment of children and youth, as highlighted in UNICEF's *Children, Food, and Nutrition* report (2019),

1. *Suggests* Member States make a plan that is similar to the UNESCO program Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA) following UNICEF's initiatives:
 - a. Requests Member States to increase the access to education institutions in conflict areas and promote similar initiatives such as the Education in Emergencies (EiE),
 - b. Suggesting Member States implement UNICEF's Learning for Peace programme,
 - c. Taking in mind the UNHCR's framework Educate A Child (EAC) and the out-of-school children (OOSC) setting up education camps, and
 - d. Recommends Member States to adhere to the *Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* report, providing inclusion for youth;
2. *Strongly encourages* Member States to consider utilizing and implementing frameworks such as the UN Development Program's Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) for the 2030 Agenda in order to:
 - a. Encourage the inclusion of child/adolescent task force or advisory boards known as the United Nations Task Force Addressing Recovery (UNSTAR) would provide a platform for such voices to ensure youth voices are included in policy development and decision making, and
3. Recommend considering the implementation of individual national forums to adequately address the specific needs and issues of children and adolescents in that region;
4. *Encourages* UNICEF to hold an international conference regarding the revision of the MRM on Grave Violations against Children of Armed Conflict in order to:
 - a. Draw attention to the current MRM to revise verification supports accurately and timely collect information regarding grave violations against children in conflict,

- b. Invite hearing from Civil Society actors, and Community-Based Organizations that remain committed towards monitoring and reporting progress regarding violations against children and youth, and;
 - c. Strongly encourage the creation of a study analyzing the advantages of revising and updating the UN MRM on Grave Violations against Children in Situations of Armed Conflict by a Group of Experts on Data Collection and Human Rights Violations who will present findings at the start of the conference;
- 5. *Advises* Member States to make use of civilian harm tracking tools such as the Civilian Battle Damage Assessment Ratio in order to:
 - a. Track and assess conflict patterns from conflict zones, and;
 - b. Gather data and knowledge on aid, humanitarian support allocation strategies, and population statistics, which can then be used by Member States to empower conflict-affected children;
- 6. *Urges* Member States to affirm the emphasis of UNICEF's Child Right Strategy by creating a platform for youth in decision-making processes, pursuant to the Member State's governmental proceedings, to foster confidence in the next generation;
- 7. *Recommends* all Member States strengthen their commitment to the Committee on the Rights of the Child Internal Reporting system to ensure cohesive domestic and international policies;
- 8. *Invites* Member States to utilize and expand upon the annual OHCHR report on trafficking in relation to children and youth affected conflict through:
 - a. Recommending Member States to collect data on cases of child abuse and sexual and physical exploitation, and;
 - b. Promoting accountability from parties relevant to conflicts for harm and damages done to children;
- 9. *Further recommends* Member States to collaborate with the Global Education Coalition, which proposes inclusive learning opportunities for children and youth when education is interrupted for a sudden period of time, to create a specified forum that shares the best practices on education techniques for conflict-affected children and youth along with bringing together educators, field experts, and social workers, to work towards creating a guide on curricula sensitization for the empowerment of children and youth;
- 10. *Requests* guidance from relevant NGOs and government systems in communities on giving children a voice through:
 - a. Suggesting the increase the establishments of CPU within the Member State, and;
 - b. Recommending the development of platforms to aid in the recognition of children in need;
- 11. *Recommends* UNESCO to create a research group for developing education curriculums tailored for conflicted affected children and youth in order to understand further methods needed to empower and include conflict-affected children and youth in a stable education system and global job markets and present them through an annual detailed report;
- 12. *Requests* the UN Department of Global Communications to write a report on the most basic youth-related knowledge covering multiple areas with the aim to empower conflict-affected children, and:
 - a. The report will facilitate online learning by sensitizing youth to the use of ICT, and;
 - b. The report will ensure a safe environment and neutrality of the resources youth will have access to;
- 13. *Suggests* UNESCO hold a special conference during which conflict-affected children and youth will be able to discuss their own educational experiences and make suggestions on how the global education system they are enrolled in could be improved;

14. *Address the concern* of violent attacks on schools and hospitals, as well the vulnerability of youth during the time of war by supporting Security Council Resolution 2427 (2018) in "Children in armed conflict" which recommends Member States to:
 - a. Seek help through the WHO asking to provide information and reports on the wellbeing and livelihood of children, and;
 - b. Sign the Safe Schools Declaration preventing schools from being used for military purposes;
15. *Recommends* Member States to take action on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC), emphasizing the Straight-18 principle that condemns the recruitment of children under 18 years old in direct parts of hostilities;
16. *Encouraging* international organizations, such as UNESCO, to provide educational assistance to conflict-affected children and youth, to improve their awareness of gender equality and youth education, by:
 - a. Appealing to volunteer groups to organize holiday practice activities such as field investigation and volunteer summer camp to help local communities build schools, and;
 - b. Recommending Member states to encourage domestic primary and secondary schools and universities to accept the descendants of conflict-affected children and youth, and increase their enrollment ratio;
17. *Suggests* Member States implement the *Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes* (1998) to further incorporate conflict-affected children and youth in their decision-making processes;
18. *Further Invites* Member States to consider implementing UNICEF's Child-Friendly Cities Initiative, realizing the rights of children at the local level, by bringing together governments and other community stakeholders, the private sector and children themselves, to make cities more child-friendly and provide better access to basic education and health care services;
19. *Encourages* the connection and partnership with NGOs that focus on overcoming barriers in the communities, through promoting education for impoverished children and providing an equal opportunity for education for both girls and boys, and feeding malnourished children;
20. *Recommends* Member States' involvement in the World Food Program to suggest distributing healthy food and nourishment for conflict-affected children with the goal of overcoming obstacles that may be preventing children from receiving a significant amount of nutrition and affecting their growth;
21. *Emphasizing* the need for community treatment of malnutrition and suggesting domestic policies regarding healthcare, nutrition reaching underserved communities, such as the Assertive Community Treatment and Coordinated Specialty Care;
22. *Suggests* the provision of Educational Services in refugee camps through the collaboration of Member States and organizations such as UNICEF, that include the following services:
 - a. Promoting new sustainable and industrialized farming methods,
 - b. Installing and maintaining information and Communications Technology (ICT), and
 - c. Implementing Vocational Training Services readily available to working-age youth, helping reintegrate them back into society;
22. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with each other in providing aid to conflict-affected children in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, through methods such as providing parents and guardians with access to Personal Protective Equipment and information about vaccination sites;
23. *Advises* stakeholders such as Member States, NGOs, and UNICEF to curate culturally-sensitive approaches to trauma through the utilization of:
 - a. Ethnography, so as to ascertain the cultural sources of distress of the children that are receiving trauma relief;

- b. Comprehensive studies,
 - c. Demographic studies, and;
 - d. Local relief methods such as, but not limited to, encouraging the practice of local religions, and invitation of spiritual healers;
24. *Further recommends* Member States to collaborate on producing policies that address gender inequalities, sexual harassment, and human trafficking, considering that women are more susceptible to experiencing these forms of gender-based violence particularly in conflict-affected zones by:
- a. Encouraging the implementation of psycho-social assistance for children and youth who have endured sexual violence, and;
 - b. Supporting “End Violence Against Women International” and similar organizations, which provide mental health and medical assistance and assist young women and girls that have been victims of sexual violence and human trafficking;
25. *Promoting* global initiatives such as the United Nations Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces that strives towards responding to, and preventing any forms of, sexual harassment that may happen to women or girls in public spaces;
26. *Suggests* Member States implement the Pedagogical Institutions Strategic Plan which encourages the legal framework on gender issues, policies of the Education Institution on subjects such as equal opportunities, inclusion, harassment, bullying, and the aims of the Education Institution on the specific matter.