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Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Children's Fund
(UNICEF) NMUN Simulation*



Conference A

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United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Committee Staff

Director: Samantha Hall
Chair: Rio Shimamoto

Agenda

- I. Fostering Digital Civic Engagement for Young People
- II. Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

CODE	TOPIC	VOTE (FOR-AGAINST-ABSTAIN)
1.1	Fostering Digital Civic Engagement for Young People	Adopted by acclamation
1.2	Fostering Digital Civic Engagement for Young People	Adopted by acclamation
1.3	Fostering Digital Civic Engagement for Young People	Adopted by acclamation
2.1	II. Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth	Adopted by acclamation
2.2	Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth	Adopted by acclamation
2.3	Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth	Adopted by acclamation
2.4	Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth	20-3-8

Summary Report

The United Nations Children's Fund held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Fostering Digital Civic Engagement for Young People
- II. Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth

The session was attended by representatives of 26 Member States and two Observers;

On Sunday, UNICEF set the agenda to I. II and focused the majority of their time on developing solutions toward Fostering Digital Civic Engagement for Young People. By the end of Monday, UNICEF had 5 working papers containing a plethora of ideas, strategies, and best practices for the international community to consider. The Body then merged half the papers and put forth three draft resolutions on the topic. These draft resolutions called upon Member States to work with UNICEF, other UN bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and young leaders on the expansion of internet infrastructure; increasing access to electronic devices; strengthening internet safety standards and best practices; bolstering cybersecurity capabilities; and empowering young leaders to be more involved in the decision-making process.

All three resolutions were adopted by acclamation, and the Body moved onto topic II – Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth. Member States and Observers quickly brought forth ideas and solutions in addressing the topic and adopted four resolutions that focused on strengthening protections for children, increasing access to legal resources for children and youth, and expanding protections for LGBTIQ+ children.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNICEF/1/1

Committee: United Nations Children's Fund

Topic: Fostering Digital Civic Engagements for Young People

The United Nations Children's Fund,

Reaffirming Article 27 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) that declares that everyone has the right to freely participate in scientific advancements and its benefits and the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary, or artistic production of which they are the author,

Reiterating Article 12 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989), which affirms that young people have a right to freely express their opinions and participate in decisions that affect them and Article 4, which calls on Member States to invest in children's rights to "the maximum extent of available resources",

Guided by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989) which establishes the right of children and adolescents to have appropriate social and political participation including the right to information,

Reaffirms young people's freedom of speech in accordance with the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948),

Discourages the practice of restricting young people's access to the internet for the purpose of limiting civic engagement,

Reaffirming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7 ("Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all"), 9 ("Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation"), and 16.7 ("Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels") to provide global energy access to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization to foster innovation and to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels,

Highlighting the *General Comment No. 19 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child* (2016) stating that meaningful participation of children must include their involvement in budget processes and establishing guidelines for Member States on how to formulate their budgets in order to realize children's rights,

Noting with regret that insufficient allocation of financial resources still poses a major obstacle in advancing children's rights and hinders achieving better outcomes for children and young people, as detailed inter alia in UNICEF's 2017 report, "Engagements in Influencing Domestic Public Finance for Children",

Stressing the crucial importance of the public finance for children (PF4C) agenda and its centrality in UNICEF's strategic efforts to increase and optimize public funding for children and young people related policies, as well as the relationship between public financing and budget processes and achieving the realization of children's rights,

Noting with concern that the PF4C agenda does not include or address the high costs associated with digitalization, information, and communications technology (ICT),

Noting the success of past projects by UNICEF and Member States to involve adolescents in budget-making processes, which led to increased budget commitments for children and young people,

Applauding the success of the GIGA initiative to connect every school to the internet and every young person to information, opportunity and choice,

Acknowledging with deep gratitude Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) driven initiatives such as the “All for YOUth, YOUth for all” that encourages young people to be more active and more visible in public policies and local economies,

Seriously concerned by the fact that, as stated in the International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU) recently released report “Facts & Figures 2021”, 37 percent of the world’s population has never used the internet,

Understanding that many children lack the devices needed in order to participate in digital civic engagement that is not limited to, but including electoral participation, individual volunteerism, advocacy, and activism online,

Bearing in mind that the best way for children to advance their livelihoods is to enable them to participate in their states’ political systems,

Having examined the 2021 UNICEF report “Investigating Risks and Opportunities for Children in a Digital World” which outlines that children prefer to participate in their civic responsibilities on the internet,

Considering that youth require online infrastructure to enjoy content and services to expand opportunities for empowerment and civic digital involvement,

1. *Invites* Member States create funding mechanisms that seek to promote the digital participation of young people, as guided by the recommendations set forth in the P4FC agenda, in order to ensure that existing strategic efforts by UNICEF to increase and optimize the financing of children’s rights include digital technologies for civic engagement by young people;
2. *Invites* all Member States to participate in the Agenda for Budget Participation and Digital Civic Engagement to enable adolescents to meaningfully participate in budget processes on all levels of government and to lower inequality between youth and older generation by:
 - a. Including adolescents in the institutional bodies tasked with the formulation of budgets and pre-budgets;
 - b. Giving them the ability to make proposals on budget increases and decreases as well as the ability to recommend dedicated funding for children and young people-related policies;
 - c. Working together with UNICEF and UNICEF National Committees in providing training programs and technical assistance to all participants and governmental authorities;
3. *Recommends* to Member States to make the resulting budgets publicly available and work together with their respective UNICEF National Committees on data collection and monitoring in order to create a biennial report on Agenda’s success, to be presented to the UNICEF Executive Board, by:
 - a. Identifying which parts of the budget affect children and young people;
 - b. Tracking the development of these parts of the budget;
 - c. Conducting monitoring and evaluation to assess the efficiency of resulting budgets;
4. *Directs* the UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti to develop a manual of best practices and methodologies in consultation with Member States to efficiently include adolescents in budget processes on all levels of government as part of the agenda, taking previous projects on budget participation into consideration;

5. *Calls on* all Member States and NGOs to lend financial support and increase their financial commitment to children's rights, especially with respect to digitization and digital civic engagement;
6. *Further requests* Member States to establish a global fundraising campaign in collaboration with UNICEF and UNICEF National Committees to garner additional financing for fostering digital civic engagement by young people;
7. *Recommends* the international community to create programs, in collaboration with the ITU, to overcome the digital gap, aiding on the ability of advancing skills and capacities for children, and promoting their participation in new technologies and innovations to ensure that young people become part of the digital economy by:
 - a. Providing additional funds to UNICEF in incorporating confidence boosters for children so they can be inspired to learn tech skills and understand the digital world better;
 - b. Ensuring that children engage with public policies especially on digital matters and giving them access to the means of providing recommendations on these policies;
8. *Recommends* Member States to implement the United Nations Technology Innovation Labs (UNTIL) programs to develop their own internet safety guidelines and allowing children to safely use the internet and access internet platforms that focus on ensuring children's voices are heard by:
 - a. Inviting youth volunteers that have coding experience and giving them the opportunity of participating in the development platforms;
 - b. Funding start-up platforms developed by youth volunteers to strengthen, maintain, and improve the platforms;
9. *Recommends* the expansion of GIGA satellite connections to support the ability of advancing skills and capacities for children and their participation in new technologies and innovations ensuring that young people become part of the digital economy by:
 - a. Inviting Member States to provide workshops to children so they can be more inspired to learn tech skills and about the digital world;
 - b. Ensuring that children are being part of engagement with public policies specially on digital matters, giving them access to means of providing recommendations on how this policies have been have and if they are outdated by their perspective;
10. *Recommends* the participation of Member States to provide youth access to learning software and educational content using the GIGA initiative and expanding the GIGA Initiative to all Member States, as well as working together with international surveying companies to adopt metrics and data collection practices to reduce the cost of providing new internet connections to rural areas and those who live in poverty by:
 - a. Mapping unserved schools to provide them access to broadband connectivity;
 - b. Accurately mapping the existing situation to ensure more precise mapping of offline zones in rural areas with a focus on households with young people;
 - c. Providing recommendations for optimizations with regard to infrastructure and accessibility;
11. *Promotes* providing children and youth who lack technological devices access to public computers, smart phones, and tablets within their communities in order for them to gain the inherent benefits relating to civic engagement from using the internet through:

- a. Encouraging Member States to work alongside the UNDP to offer mobile internet devices for rural populations, which enables connection and e-learning, independent from location, supporting economic infrastructures to enable rural regions to build their own internet networks;
 - b. Building and upholding public community spaces such as libraries with access to computers;
 - c. Creating national school programs in which children and youth can borrow devices for periods of time;
 - d. Encouraging the creation of private partnerships in order to fund programs that provide for young people in need of technological devices;
12. *Requests* Member States to partner with The Innocenti Research Center and intergovernmental policy creators to strengthen research and improve public-financial law and policy formulation that incentivize benefits and costs of internet expansion while realizing human rights principles for children and youth by:
 - a. Supporting good and responsible governance that considers human rights principles and rules for an enabling digital infrastructure and environment;
 - b. Lowering costs and promoting private business investments and youth entrepreneurship that encourage future economic competition with the goal of creating universal access to the internet;
13. *Proposes* the consideration of the UNICEF Strategic Plan on Engaging Children and Young People Youth Consultation Report with voluntary contributions from Member States to all funds and initiatives operated by UNICEF, with special regard to paragraphs three and four on page twenty eight of the aforementioned report;
14. *Encourages* Member States to draft new laws relating to policies about strengthening children's rights, in order to get access to privacy in the digital world, which will rely on guidelines that will be worked on together with experts from the Member States in cooperation with the UNICEF - Innocenti Office of Research;
15. *Calls upon* Member States to develop a five-year framework on funding for internet infrastructure as a means to bolster infrastructure that seeks to foster digital civic engagement among Member States' population, including young people;
16. *Calls upon* Member States to focus on the construction of new wireless infrastructures to expand internet access for children and young people in order to:
 - a. Promote their participation in civic movements;
 - b. Create more opportunities for young people to engage more in virtual civic events, and;
 - c. Provide more internet access for the youth living in removed, rural areas.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNICEF/1/2

Committee: United Nations Children's Fund

Topic: Fostering Digital Civic Engagement by Young People

The United Nations Children's Fund,

Recognizing the value of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 8 ("Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all") and 9 ("Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation"), and General Assembly resolution 50/81 on "World Program of Action for Youth" on promoting inclusion of young people,

Emphasizing the significance of expanding digital civic engagement opportunities for young people as emphasized by the UN Development Program's report on "Civic Participation of Youth in the Digital World",

Encouraging Members States to collaborate with multinational cybersecurity organizations that will promote data security, privacy, and protection for online users while in an educational setting,

Noting with deep concern how the current digital world weaponizes young people's vulnerability to sustain a permissible environment for internet insecurity, bullying, harassment, and cyber-attacks,

Highlighting UNICEF's Guideline "Engaged and Heard" to support meaningful and equitable adolescent participation and civic engagement,

Stressing the importance of building confidence to allow digital civic engagement, 57% of young people according to a surveys from UNDP do not feel assured revealing their real identity by lack of trust and protection,

1. *Stresses* the importance of building upon global partnerships and multilateral cooperation through further collaboration to empower youth;
2. *Urges* Member States to further emphasize the importance of protecting freedom of speech, and civil rights that will suggest:
 - a. Freedom to express oneself civic opinion without fear of retaliation;
 - b. Protection of online right in the same way that they are protected offline;
 - c. Individual liberties and religious beliefs must not be infringed upon by the government
3. *Encourages* regional organizations and Member States to pursue practices of information sharing and transparency through increased cooperation by protecting personal information and increase accessibility to all kind of information, while maintaining national sovereignty, political independence, and territorial independence;
4. *Request* Members States to take action that prevents cyber attacks by:

- a. Conducting the usage of secure networks, such as the Authenticator App, that provides progressive security for young people online;
 - b. Expanding research to investigate technology accessibility, communication, proficiency, and expansion to other digital media platforms that will maintain global internet security for younger people;
 - c. Incorporating partnerships with other global internet security organizations such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Microsoft Corporation;
 - ii. Center for Internet Security;
 - iii. Cynet;
 - iv. Duo Mobil;
5. *Calls upon* all Member States to develop programs similar to UNICEF's *It's About Ability* to promote digital literacy and comprehension in educational curriculum by increasing Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in conjunction as a means to:
- a. Emphasize the significance of the four types of interactives purposed by ICT: Educational networking, Web-based learning, Mobile learning, and Classroom engagement;
 - b. Expands regional and international partnerships to include cyber threats, proactive, and preventative solutions while online;
 - c. Narrows attention towards the enhancements of protecting younger people while engaging in civic activities;
6. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their global partnership in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) with the United Nations International Computing Center (UNICC) by:
- a. Making educational workshops on internet security, cyber assaults and misinformation;
 - b. Emphasizing ICT in school and social institution context;
 - c. Expanding worldwide government websites to use terminologies that are understandable to children of all ages in order to encourage them to participate actively or at the very least be aware of what surrounds them.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNICEF/1/3

Committee: United Nations Children's Fund

Topic: Fostering Digital Civic Engagement by Young People

The United Nations Children's Fund,

Appreciating that young people have unique, valid, and important insights that benefit everyone when Member States allow young people to participate, listen to those opinions, and integrate young people into civic society as we work towards building a better tomorrow,

Reaffirming the importance of the *Convention of the Rights of the Child* (1989) and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* (1948) to taking part in civic engagement regardless of platform, including the rights to participation, expression, and access to information,

Recalling the *2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development* with special emphasis on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 10.2 and 16.7, which address the inclusion and representation of all in political decision-making and support the use of digital tools to empower young people to participate in civic engagement,

Highlighting the success of United Nations (UN) social media campaigns, such as Upfluence (2020), in spreading useful information to youth via social media influencers,

Aware that there is a great potential for the use of digital resources and technology to encourage civic engagement and advocacy amongst young people, as reported in *Investigating Risks and Opportunities for Children in a Digital World: A rapid review of the evidence on children's internet use and outcomes* (2021),

Observing that the inclusion of young people in positions of power, such as on advisory boards, allows them to contribute to innovation and improvement in their local and global communities, as shown in movements like *Shaking Up to Move Forward* (2020),

Noting with concern the widespread lack of cooperation between young adults and governments in the matter of civic engagement as portrayed by the *World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement* (2016),

Encouraged by the success of previous youth government initiatives by individual Member States in empowering youth to contribute to their communities and combat deterrents to civic engagement, especially given the decline of youth civic and political participation in 56% of countries in the past decade, according to the *Global Youth Development Report* (2020),

Bearing in mind the importance and value of integrating young people in civic society through the previous achievements of *Voices of Youth* and the UN Youth Delegate program to promote young people to make a difference in their lives and to actively influence their futures,

Emphasizing the unfortunate reality that all young people face different challenges, and many are marginalized in a number of ways - including race, geography, and gender - that compound the vulnerabilities they face as young people,

Stressing the importance of educating young people on their rights and giving them the tools to stand up for their own and those of others,

Acknowledging with deep regret the negative impacts of online misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech especially on social media, affecting young people's mental health, undermining their interpersonal and intergroup relationships, and preventing them from effectively engaging and participating in their communities online and offline,

Conscious of the lack of reliable, up-to-date studies on the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of young people in the realm of digital civic engagement,

1. *Promotes* the expansion of the existing *Youth Advocates* program in order to connect experienced activists and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other international or regional bodies in order to strengthen digital civic skills by:
 - a. Establishing an all-inclusive curriculum with an emphasis on training in leadership, ways to effectively share informative content via social media, increasing youth involvement with government and global processes, and other necessary aspects of modern digital activism;
 - b. Partnering with successful advocates - especially those recognized by UNICEF in the annual list of Youth Advocates - and political figures to develop useful and practical tools and mentorships for future leaders to study and eventually use;
 - c. Increasing efforts to contract well-known local and global influencers and brands through the *Engaged and Heard Program!* to promote the importance of youth civic education;
2. *Further requests* more tools to be made available by the international community for young people in order to allow them to advocate for themselves and others by:
 - a. Providing opportunities through which program participants and other learners can practice these skills and hone their advocacy abilities with guidance from UNICEF and other leaders, such as internships or mentorships;
 - b. Focusing on increasing virtual or remote events and developing these experiences with vulnerable populations who may otherwise have not been able to participate in mind;
3. *Invites* local, regional, and national governments to develop accessible and practical resources that young people may use to become involved with their leadership by:
 - a. Implementing the Innovation Unit Program (IUP) and other existing programs that help less developed countries' young people understand and get familiarized with technological devices while letting them widen their points of view;
 - b. Working with young leaders and advocates to create information that their peers or participants can easily understand, use, and reference throughout their work;
 - c. Making these resources available in educational facilities physically and digitally;
4. *Encourages* the international community to include young leaders in the public and private sector, such as city councils, community forums, and non-governmental organizations by:

- a. Providing a “youth-friendly” designation to entities that conscientiously include young people by offering opportunities catered toward youth leadership development;
 - b. Establishing youth advisory boards to allow them to vocalize their needs regarding major decisions impacting their communities as suggested by the UN's *Youth2030: Working With and for Young People* report (2018), and inviting the youth to join the existing advisory boards by launching a channel for input and feedback from young people to global leaders;
 - c. Building a mentor-mentee connection between the youth and a leader in the organization to facilitate a smoother involvement for them through the partnership with NGOs and their programs like *Shaking Up to Move Forward F(2020)*, which encourages in person and digital conversations;
5. *Recommends* that Member States create digital participation possibilities in order to empower youth in civic engagement initiatives and ensure their voices are heard by:
- a. Creating collaborative digital civic participation platforms between young people and local governments so that young people may analyze the challenges and solutions of their communities and witness the innovative ideas of their peers in adjacent regions through:
 - i. Citizen initiatives proposed by young people that may be submitted for consideration for implementation in order to foster dialogue on pertinent issues;
 - ii. Online panels by young people facilitated by local governments that inspire participation and collaboration that result in further development of their ideas presented back to local authoritative figures;
 - b. Encouraging regional and national government representatives to have quarterly digital meetings with young representatives in a similar manner as the European Youth Parliament (EYP) and National Model UN (NMUN);
6. *Calls upon* multilateral organizations to offer more digital opportunities for civic participation in order to expand the reach of these programs to all young people regardless of location through:
- a. Extending existing international initiatives by adding fully digital formats of participation on an international, multilateral level for young people with already existing programs such as the European Youth Parliament (EYP), the African Youth Parliament (AYP), and the Asian Youth Council (AYC);
 - b. Initiating digital universal discussions between government leaders and young people through movements like The UN's Youth2030 program;
7. *Recommends* Member States to seek closing the gender gap by empowering young women in order to promote opportunities to participate actively, both digitally and in person, as an equal member of society by:
- a. Distributing informational material regarding UN Youth Delegate programs and similar initiatives to local girls' and women's centers with the help of regional and national UNICEF locations, such as:
 - i. Granting access to podcast and radio shows that seek to empower young women in the pursuit of future leadership roles;

- ii. Distributing flyers and other informational documents regarding local organizations that offer programs seeking to provide inclusive opportunities for young women;
 - iii. Inviting women leaders to present their experiences in leadership roles and their paths to success, which can be recorded for future use;
 - iv. Organizing workshops discussing the use of technology to be more equipped for future leadership roles, the workings of technological business models required for economic success, the paths one must take to attain such success, and how to maintain a stable personal future;
 - b. Introducing frameworks in the local and regional communities of Member States similar to the *Shaking Up to Move Forward* movement, which, in terms of gender equality, focuses on the improvement of female education through leadership, business, and technology;
- 8. *Suggests* Member States educate young people on their rights and to promote digital civic engagement by the means of:
 - a. Working closely with international, national, and local NGOs to benefit from their experts' knowledge of human rights including digital rights;
 - b. Partnering with UN regional offices to create trainings and workshops that integrate the rights of young people into national education programs;
- 9. *Urges* all Member States to be strong in their commitment to protect the rights of young people to participate and express their opinions without fear of intimidation while:
 - a. Giving special consideration to the safety of young activists;
 - b. Reaffirming the commitment to young people's safety that many Member States have made by signing the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- 10. *Encourages* Member States to promote the importance of respect for the opinions of others and their right of expression by:
 - a. Acknowledging the need for young people to respect contrasting perspectives or reputations as found in Article 13 of the *Convention of the Rights of the Child* when navigating political discourse;
 - b. Training cybersecurity and information security professionals in recognizing and combating cyberbullying, which is defined as any harmful act committed by one onto another with the intention of harm, includes but is not limited to impersonation, hate speech, and threatening messages via the internet;
 - c. Highlighting the concept of minimum security awareness which would include educating users on identifying untrustworthy websites, fake accounts, and conserving personal information from the web;
 - d. Drawing attention to the serious effects that cyberbullying can have on young people and how they might be discouraged from using digital platforms as a sphere of civic engagement;

11. *Recognizing* the physiological and psychological effects that cyberbullying can have on young people by:
 - a. Directing attention to national hotlines for assistance if bullying has occurred for counseling;
 - b. Encouraging young people to report any bullying they experience or witness on the internet to prevent it in the future, and for authorities to ensure it is dealt with on the same level as physical bullying;
 - c. Encouraging young people to take time to recover from cyberbullying but then to rejoin the political discourse;
12. *Calls upon* Member States to review and strengthen anti-hate speech legislation concerning minors in accordance with the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, and:
 - a. Publicize new legislation via digital means;
 - b. Amplify other legal methods of combating hate speech;
13. *Requests* that Member States counter misinformation, disinformation, cyberbullying, and hate speech by:
 - a. Implementing courses into education systems that teach young people how to use critical thinking to search for reliable information online, evaluate sources, and explore a variety of viewpoints;
 - b. Partnering with the international community to implement awareness campaigns that explain the risks of false information, instruct young people in how to use social media safely, and provide resources to assist young people in identifying false and accurate information online;
 - c. Calling upon multinational social media companies such as Meta, Tiktok, and Twitter to label sensitive, hateful, or false information utilizing the OHCHR's Rabat Plan of Action to prevent misleading young users, preserve freedom of expression while countering harmful language, and advise users to independently fact-check what they read on these platforms;
14. *Encourages* Member States to collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to conduct up-to-date baseline studies on youth digital knowledge and involvement in order to ascertain areas of weakness and more precisely guide outreach efforts while:
 - a. Expanding these baseline studies to analyze technology access among young people compared to adults, and which online platforms young people use for what purposes;
 - b. Including simplified versions of study results along with graphs so that the information is accessible to youth themselves;
 - c. Using these results to target awareness campaigns, further research, and engagement with young leaders.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNICEF/2/1

Committee: United Nations Children's Fund

Topic: Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth

The United Nations Children's Fund,

Deeply concerned by the fact that one in four children does not have a birth certificate and thus lacks proof of legal identity, and that unregistered children are disproportionately found in rural areas and Least Developed Countries,

Alarmed by certain Member States targeting of civilian centers, where children are present, with the intent of inflicting harm on said centers,

Appalled by the economic cost of child violence and justice which totals roughly \$7 trillion (8% of the global gross domestic product),

1. *Urges* Member States to move toward universal birth registration by:
 - a. Establishing birth registration services in as many public hospitals as possible, with a focus on rural hospitals;
 - b. Investing in government agencies responsible for birth registration;
2. *Encourages* Member States to give children a voice about violence detected in their countries by:
 - a. Creating a website or a hotline meant for young people to press charges anonymously, especially if they're fearing of the consequences that action could have on them or their abused such as the FBI's Electronic tip form;
 - b. Working to create or implement public structures meant specifically to aid children seeking to speak out about the abuse they are experiencing;
3. *Denounces* the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) on children by:
 - a. Raising awareness through parental training on the harms of FGM;
 - b. Providing training for medical professionals in order for them to be able to recognize the signs of FGM;
4. *Urges* Member States to utilize every reasonable political mechanism at its disposal to prevent other member states from intentionally targeting civilian centers, with specific regard civilian centers housing children.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNICEF/2/2

Committee: United Nations Children's Fund

Topic: Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth

The United Nations Children's Fund,

Reiterating the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) guaranteeing all children the right to life, health, and non-discrimination,

Desiring to create a future where each child and young person is able to live safely and happily,

Alarmed by the discrimination and violence that children and young people face today,

Disturbed by the fact that many victims of violence and injustice still have no access to legal remedies,

Emphasizing the global obligation to provide violence response and access to justice for children and youth on every level – local, regional, national, and international,

Recalling the United Nations Study on Violence against Children which showed the full extent of violence against children worldwide, and its recommendation on creating effective and accessible legal protection mechanisms within Member States' systems,

Convinced that the protection and improvement of rights of children and young people with a LGBTIQ+ identity deserve special attention by UNICEF,

1. *Emphasizes the need to prevent and protect young people from violence, while also providing violence response for every individual;*
2. *Calls upon Member States to secure and broaden the access to justice for young people;*
3. *Suggests Member States to support the collaboration of the national police, care providers, and judicial services by locating them into a center for assistance, so all actors in the chain of assistance for victims of violence are integrated in one location to ensure an effective exchange of information and the most effective help for the victims;*
4. *Calls upon Member States to consider passing a resolution in the General Assembly clarifying that sexual orientation is the reason why LGBTIQ+ children are targets of violence and discrimination and that sexual identity must be part of the Right to Identity,*
5. *Encourages Member States to enhance violence response and legal protection of LGBTIQ+ youth in collaboration with the UN Free & Equal campaign by:*
 - a. *Instructing health professionals and justice workers on how to identify exposure to violence or possible threats to children's health so that interventions can be offered;*
 - b. *Informing health professionals, justice workers, and the general public about the special threat LGBTIQ+ youth face;*

- c. Training legal workers in child psychology and counseling, and child counselors and psychologists in law in order to ensure that all actors in the justice system are adequately equipped and can effectively provide violence response;
- d. Distributing info materials accessible to children to inform them about their rights and how they can take legal action against violence and discrimination.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNICEF/2/3

Committee: United Nations Children's Fund

Topic: Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth

The United Nations Children's Fund,

Recognizing the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) that states that countries should protect children's survival and development,

Emphasizes the importance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16 that aim at ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children,

Stressing the need to ensure - per SDG 16.9 - that all children have legal documents and identities so that they are able to access legal aid, resources, and guidance,

Noting the need for increased knowledge on the topic of abuse and violence towards children, as well as the importance of this knowledge in order to structure,

1. *Encourages* all Member States to implement educational programs that address, educate, and inform the public on types of abuses against children and young people;
2. *Suggests* to discuss the implementation of educational workshops that concentrate on the different forms of child abuses;
3. *Calls on* all Member States to work towards ensuring all children are legally documented and have the related legal rights by:
 - a. Creating strategic plans and benchmarks through which progress can both be guided and tracked;
 - b. Partnering with other Member States to develop best practices for documenting children, with a special focus on privacy protections, data maintenance, and ethical collection and usage of information;
4. *Inviting* Member States to voluntarily supply unidentified medical and police records to better understand the scale of abuse towards children and youth and support research on prevention or intervention strategies.



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Code: UNICEF/2/4

Committee: United Nations Children's Fund

Topic: Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth

The United Nations Children's Fund,

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal 16.2,

Alarmed by the fact that the consequences of violence against and abuse of children are estimated to cost 7 trillion USD each year, or approximately 8% of annual global GDP,

Affirming the importance of considering a child's maturity and understanding when facilitating their legal empowerment as emphasized United Nations Common Approach to Justice,

Recognizing that children originating from the most disadvantaged circumstances face barriers such as legal and institutional discrimination, lack of awareness, lack of capacity, insufficient outreach, lack of trust of formal institutions, inadequate protection, fear of retaliation, or lack of physical access,

Emphasizing that children deserve to have their rights respected and that part of this is establishing child friendly and gender-sensitive systems that ensure that children are treated with compassion, dignity, and respect, while acknowledging and addressing the different needs of children in age and gender appropriate ways,

Believing that that effective violence response systems must include individuals who are trained to deal with children in order to ensure they have access to justice and to avoid secondary victimization,

1. *Urges* all Member States to be strong in their commitment to protect the rights of youth throughout legal proceedings;
2. *Requests* a common definition for abusive litigation concerning children to be "when an individual utilizes the legal system to gain power and control at the expense of a child";
3. *Urges* all Member States to invest in child friendly response training for health, social service, and justice personnel, as doing this will decrease the chance of secondary victimization and acts as important element of survivor-centered access to justice by:
 - a. Prioritizing the use of child sensitive communication;
 - b. Acknowledging complete privacy and confidentiality of the child
 - c. Effective participation in legal proceedings
 - d. Realizing the serious effects that improper motions, adjournments, and adequate defense can have on the case in which a child is involved.