



**CONFERENCE A** 

# National Model United Nations • New York 22-26 March 2015 (Conf. A)



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

## **United Nations Children's Fund**

#### **Committee Staff**

Director	Thejasvi Ramu
Chair	Danielle Erica Curtis

### Agenda

- I. Prioritizing Children's Rights in National and International Development Agendas
- II. Children and Armed Conflict: Reintegration and Recovery
- III. Advancing Human Development of Adolescents

### **Resolutions adopted by the Committee**

Code	Topic	Vote
UNICEF/1/1	Prioritizing Children's Rights in	Adopted without a vote
	National and International	
	Development Agendas	
UNICEF/1/2	Prioritizing Children's Rights in	21 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 2 abstentions
	National and International	
	Development Agendas	

## **Summary Report**

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

- I. Prioritizing Children's Rights in National and International Development Agendas
- II. Children and Armed Conflict: Reintegration and Recovery
- III. Addressing Human Development of Adolescents

The session was attended by representatives of 25 Member States, and one non-governmental organization (NGO) observer. Discussions in the first session on Sunday were on setting the agenda, which was adopted at I, III, II, and began discussion on the topic of Prioritizing Children's Rights in National and International Development Agendas. General consensus in the committee was that there is need to address children's rights as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) comes to a conclusion and discussions on establishing the post-2015 agenda continues to be prominent.

By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of three proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics including education, youth empowerment, health care, sovereignty, and child mortality rates, with respect to children's rights. The Member States came to a consensus and also expressed the need to assure proper implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as it is the driving international legal documentation regarding this topic. Additional analysis of the topic introduced debate on violations of children's rights due to various forms of abuse, thereby suggesting a necessity to address the implementation of existing international frameworks on this issue.

By Wednesday, the Dais approved two draft resolutions, with no amendments. The committee adopted one draft resolution by acclamation and the second draft resolution with a simple majority. The two resolutions explored issues that were discussed during speeches and informal sessions by three working groups who over time merged their clauses to produce two cohesive and succinct resolutions for the body, which illustrated the delegate's hard work and eagerness for mutual commitment.



#### **National Model United Nations • NY**

Code: UNICEF/1/1

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Committee: The United Nations Children's Fund

Topic: Prioritizing Children's Rights in National and International Development Agendas

1 The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2 3 Encourages giving due consideration to the issue of the right of children and adolescents to healthcare and 4 education, in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, 5 6 Reaffirming the importance of resolution A/RES/20/2037, the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the 7 Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect, and Understanding Between Peoples which promotes equal legal rights of child 8 and the overall welfare of children and adolescents, 9 10 Emphasizing the importance of educating children and adolescents about health-related issues with regard to prioritizing their rights in national and international development agendas, 11 12 13 Recalling further Articles 2.2 and 3.2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), urging Member States to 14 take all measures available to protect their children, 15 16 Noting further the lack of implementation of Article 2.2 of the CRC, which contributes to negative stigmas that are 17 associated with STI's and unplanned pregnancies and such, which may prohibit youth from seeking proper interventions concerning sexual health, 18 19 20 Recalling Articles 3.3 and 6.2 of the CRC, stressing the importance of health and guaranteeing the survival and 21 development of the child as a fundamental right, 22 23 Deeply concerned about the fact that Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4, as adopted in A/RES/55/2, is yet to 24 be achieved, and therefore the human right to life for children, as stated in Articles 6.1 and 24.2 of the CRC, 25 continues to be a priority, 26 27 Deeply concerned about the lack of access to mental health services, since mental illness inhibits children from 28 developing to the maximum extent possible, as stated in the Article 6.2 of the CRC, 29 30 Reiterating Article 7 of the CRC, which states that every child has the right to be registered at birth, to a name and a 31 nationality, 32 33 Recalling Article 12 of the CRC, which urges Member States to ensure the right of children to express their views in 34 all matters affecting them by providing them with opportunities to voice their needs and concerns, 35 36 Reaffirming Article 17 of the CRC, which highlights the importance of mass media, ensuring children have access to 37 information, especially those aimed at promoting social, mental and moral well-being, 38 39 Mindful of Article 19/1 of the CRC which, guarantees protection of children from any form of violence or abuse, 40 41 Reaffirming Article 23/1 of the CRC stating the right of disabled children to a full and decent life, 42 43 Alarmed by the poor access to healthcare services and schools in many rural areas, which prohibit children from 44 exercising their right to access to healthcare and education as stated in Article 28.1.a of the CRC, which states that 45 primary education should be compulsory and available to all, 46 47 Stressing the basic right of children to rest and leisure as stated in Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the

Noting with approval the importance of respecting cultural and traditional values during the promotion of education,

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105 106 Fully bearing in mind that primary education continues to be a privilege for children for which services needs to be paid for as opposed to a fundamental right,

Highlighting the importance of equal accessibility to both genders in the primary and secondary educational system,

Guided by the World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents and the report of the Special Rapporteur of HRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

Having devoted attention to the importance of providing access to clean water to children worldwide, as stated in MDG 7,

Reiterating the importance of including the issue of malnutrition of children under 5, especially in rural areas, in the post-2015 development agenda, as stated in the 2014 UNICEF report "A post-2015 World Fit For Children",

Recalling the need to enforce existing campaigns like the Children and Aids Campaign, advocating awareness raising for the prevention of HIV/AIDS,

Profoundly concerned with the legal rights of children suffering from conflict or post conflict and disaster situations and the identification of children affected by conflict,

Reaffirms the optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (A/RES/54/263), by discouraging the recruitment of children under the age of 18, as this disrespects a child's right to peace, as stated in the preamble of the CRC,

Addressing the urgent need for skilled social workers and social work education in regards to the protection of children's right in conflicts-affected contexts,

- Strongly encourages giving due consideration to the inclusion and promotion of legal and social rights of children in the post-2015 development agenda, specifically by addressing early childhood health and protection from violence by:
  - a. Encouraging the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to promote infants' right to appropriate nutrition, as stated in Article 24.2.c of the CRC, in the post-2015 development agenda by considering to include the target of ending stunting and wasting in infants, providing necessary vaccinations and addressing their nutritional needs as well as the ones of their lactating mothers,
  - b. Coordinating a UNICEF Implementation Board (UNICEF BIB) for the United Nations Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) to further ensure infants' right to life and the diminishing of infant and maternal mortality under Articles 24.2.a and 24.2.d of the CRC for the promotion in national and international development agendas,
  - c. Further Emphasizing that national agendas take into consideration the necessity to provide school attendees at least one meal that is subsidized through the "Home Grown School Feeding and Health Programme" in keeping with Article of the CRC Article 24 which states the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health primarily through food,
  - d. Providing special assistance to physically and mentally disabled children in order that they fully exercise their rights in accordance with Article 23 of the CRC,
  - Further reminding Member States to adhere to Article 38 of CRC, which states that Parties shall refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the appropriate age into their armed forces by:
    - Implementing stricter birth registrations in order to identify children's age and preventing stateless ness more easily especially pertaining to at-home births and fostering online registration mechanism by NGOs with the help from UNICEF,

- 107 Establishing community-based foundation and peer-to-peer collaboration between children ii. 108 that advocates reporting of any missing child that may have been involuntarily recruited for 109 war purposes. 110 iii. Promoting coordination between UNICEF, UN bodies, and NGOs in order to train personnel 111 to identify, protect and report any recruited child in the armed forces especially in vulnerable 112 113 iv. Strongly encouraging regional cooperation and information sharing on the monitoring and 114 tracking of child refugees; 115 2. Encourages the UNGA to incorporate child and adolescent mental health in the post-2015 development agenda 116 117 by: 118 119 Recommending the inclusion of the following goals and indicators: 120 121 i. Achieving universal access to mental health services for children and adolescents, 122 ii. Reducing suicide rates for adolescents between the age of 12 and 18 by 25 percent, 123 iii. Reducing drug-related deaths for adolescents by 25 percent, 124 125 b. Encouraging the coordination of a UNICEF Play-Date Initiative to ensure that young children have 126 access to the necessary opportunities for healthy psychological development as mandated in Article 6.2 of the CRC by: 127 128 129 i. Supporting national governments in the implementation of group play and family therapy 130 sessions targetting the issues of healthy psychological developing for young children affected 131 132 Coordinating an Early-Childhood Psychological Development campaign to raise awareness ii. 133 regarding the importance of early intervention in the psychological development of children, 134 135 Further calling upon Member States to consider providing psychological support in areas of immediate 136 access, to children and adolescents so that they may have maximum access to mental health services in 137 accordance with Article 6.2 of the CRC; 138 139 3. Encourages Member States to address the lack of implementation of CRC Article 2.2, which may prohibit 140 youth from seeking proper interventions concerning sexual health and education, and therefore further prohibit 141 them from fully exercising their rights by: 142
  - Recommending Member States work in collaboration with local media platforms, including but not limited to radio stations and social media platforms, in an effort to spread information regarding sexuality directed towards the needs of adolescence,

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- b. Recommending Member States to organize Adolescent Sex Seminars, which will allow adolescents to craft sexual health education curricula compatible with their nation's sexual health standards in order to ensure children have access to their right to maintain cultural integrity, in accordance with Article 30 of the CRC;
- 4. *Encourages* giving due consideration to the issue of ensuring the right of access to health and health services to all children in accordance with Article 24.1 of the CRC, and in elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda by:
  - Improving basic medical care in rural areas so that all children are guaranteed their right to access medical care,
  - b. Recommending the prioritization of measurements to improve access to healthcare in rural areas in individual Member State development agendas, to meet with Article 24.1 of the CRC to ensure highest attainable access to health, by:

- i. Extending infrastructural programs in rural areas to facilitate the journey to a health center, ii. Implementing a national information technology (IT) system to coordinate primary (dispensaries and nursing stations) and secondary healthcare (doctors offices and hospitals) and optimize the transfer between them, Urging Member States to increase voluntary funding in order to prioritize children's rights within their respective national agendas by earmarking funds within their own National Child Budget (NCB), which shall be used for the sole purpose of ensuring children's rights, be it through UNICEF-endorsed initiatives or national programs working to implement children's right to health;
  - 5. *Encourages* the prioritization of Article 28.A of the CRC to ensure children have equal access to their rights primary education by:

- a. Further requesting that the Global Education First Initiative ensures that cultural integrity is preserved in the countries they operate in by training sent educators to adapt teaching methods to local practices in order to ensure that children are able to exercise their right as stated in Article 30 of the CRC,
- b. Improving coordination between the UN and the local governments and NGOs to provide incentives for families in remote areas to send their children to school in accordance with Article 28.A of the CRC in order to provide children with their right to access primary education,
- c. Congratulating existing programs such as "Schools for Africa" which work with governments, local authorities, communities and other partners in 13 countries in Africa to promote incentives such as pocket money and free meals to children who go to school in order to allow children to exercise their rights to primary education in accordance of Article 28.A of the CRC.



#### **National Model United Nations • NY**

Code: UNICEF/1/2

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Committee: The United Nations Children's Fund

Topic: Promoting Children's Rights in National and International Development Agendas

1 The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2 3 Noting with deep concern that children of all walks of life are affected by the lack of their present legal rights, 4 5 Calling attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with regards to the education, health, and socio-6 economic state of the child are the most important to improving the condition of children's rights, 7 Recalling that for the year 2015, UNICEF urges to find ways to "reimagine" other Member States' norms as its 8 9 yearly inspiration, 10 11 Observing that the implementation of the CRC is significant in promoting systematic campaigns on child rights in 12 national agendas, 13 14 Acknowledging that the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has been adopted but is not effectively 15 implemented by a majority of participating Member States represented in UNICEF, 16 17 Draws attention to Article 3 of the CRC which reminds the body that, "in all actions concerning children... the best 18 interests of the child shall be a primary consideration," 19 20 Recognizing that Article 24 of the CRC which states that all children have the right to be provided with the 21 "enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of 22 health," 23 24 Acknowledging that Article 12 of the CRC says "state parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his 25 or her own views freely in all matters... being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the 26 child," and "shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative 27 proceedings affecting the child," 28 29 Keeping in mind resolution A/RES/68/145, Strengthening the Collaboration on Children's Protection, and the work 30 of the UN Major Group on Youth and Children which promotes the involvement of children in the decision-making 31 process of establishing their own rights, 32 33 Recognizing the work of Child Rights Connect in their role of information sharing, along with The Dubai 34 Foundation, Save the Children, the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Action Against Hunger, Stop Hunger Now, 35 the UN Development Programme (UNDP), in addition to the Regional Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change, the 36 Children's Climate Change Forum, 37 38 Further recognizing but not limited to Denmark's National Council for Children, the Dominican Republic's 39 Municipal Council for Children, Inter-Generational Dialogue as being NGOs and programs highly recognized and 40 commended for their efforts made in improving children's rights, 41 42 Cognizant of the fact that many other forms of violations against children should be addressed on with similar 43 weight of other rights: neglect, child pornography, child sex tourism, child slavery, child trafficking, child labor, 44 etc., 45

Applauding the efforts made by Aid for the Children and Adolescents at Risk Foundation (ANAR), as well as the

as empowering children to stand up against the violations of their own rights,

Global Movement for Children who are taking preventative measures against various forms of child abuse, as well

50 Recalling resolution A/RES/68/146 which recognizes and enforces the rights of the female child in the educational system and beyond,

Applauding the UNICEF Child-Friendly School Approach's success in Tajikistan, and it's focus on early learning, out-of-school children, and education quality,

*Keeping in mind* the success of the efforts of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM) towards educating generations on spreadable diseases and offering measures to assisting those with such diseases,

*Recalling* Iceland's Children's House and Children's Ombudsman, and the Dominican Republic's Municipal Youth Council Initiative as success stories in reinforcing the standards of the CRC,

*Noting with concern*, that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are to expire at the conclusion of 2015, specifically Goal 1 to eradicate world hunger and poverty, Goal 2 to achieve global primary education, Goal 4 in reducing child mortality, and Goal 8 to establish a global network for development,

1. *Urges* the body to continue the promotion of the implementation of CRC, collaboration with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Total Investment, and Child Advocacy through:

a. Solving the broader forms of children's rights being violated, as well as determining a long-term solution to those various sectors of such rights,

b. Recommendation that the establishment of SDGs focuses on three broad areas, those being Education, Healthcare, and Poverty, as an efficient means of categorizing the most vital children's rights;

 2. Recommends a primary campaign for implementation of children rights with a focus on education, particularly that of minority populations, due to the knowledge that education will affect the understanding of the rights children implicitly have, and create a chain affect in the ability to maintain such rights in international and national development agendas. Also keeping in mind:

a. The structure of Iceland's Children's House and Children's Ombudsman and international organizations like The Dubai Foundation, which not only advocate for children through governmental policy, but also educate children about the judicial process so that they can aid in the process and become self-reporters of crimes against their rights, and implementing like foundations and programming,

b. The implementation of a series of campaigns to raise awareness, for the general population, such as but not limited to media and school system as means of establishing awareness to all individuals, regarding the role of the ANAR and other similar civil society organizations in addressing preventative measures against various forms of child abuse, and therefore preventing violations of children's rights and its impact on national and regional development agendas;

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity to promote children in all socio-economic groups in addressing their rights on a national and international development agenda by:

a. Collaborating and keeping in mind UNICEFs previous work with the WFP and Stop Hunger Now, to aid in promoting the right to the access to nutrition as a children's right,

b. Promoting CSOs such as Barefoot Education to promote the agenda of children's education to those who may not be able to attend school as an outlet to furthering development and encouraging UNICEF to further pursue Article 23 of the CRC by enhanced monitoring of infrastructural development programs of road construction in rural areas to ensure an improved connection of infrastructure with education localities for a facilitated accessibility,

c. Encouraging collaboration with NGOs like the International Committee of the Red Cross to help register children in refugee camps and IDPs as a method of reuniting children with their families while

providing them access to rehabilitation resources which addresses a child's right to family and autonomy;

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- 4. Reflecting upon the successful structure of the Dominican Republic's Municipal Youth Council Initiative as a way to create youth councils in regions and local communities to allow representation of youth in the decision-making process through working with Inter-Generational Dialogue and similar bodies;
- 5. Resolves the concern surrounding funding by urging the international community to make voluntary contributions to the existing projects and initiatives within the UNICEF framework to support the campaign promoting children's right, particularly that with the advancement of the Post-2015 agenda;
- 6. *Further developing* a program that would work with NGOs such as the Skandia Global Fund and others to facilitate the financial outreach to Member States needing financial help to establish and operate existing programs.

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