

MUNAA

Background Paper

SOCHUM I

Examining child rights
in conflict areas





Welcome, delegates.

MUNAA 2018 secretariat, moderators, directors, staff and DIS directors have been working hard through the last few months to make this event possible. We are glad to have every single one of you here.

This November 29, 30 and December 1st you will employ and develop skills to implement solutions to current and relevant world problems. You will also have the opportunity to face and debate different ideas and practice tolerance and respect, and of course you'll have the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

Our goal is that every single one of us becomes aware that developing and improving different skills is only the beginning and that our ultimate objective is understanding that giving up is not an option, that there are possible solutions to every issue and knowing that every action has a global reaction.

We hope that you all have the best experience and a lot of fun. Thank you for making this event possible.

Let's change the world together!

Ana Sofia Juarez Villarreal

Secretary General, MUNAA 2018

Every action, a global reaction



DIS

Department of International Studies



Committee: SOCHUM

Topic A): Examining child rights in conflict areas.

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I. Committee Background

The Third Committee of the General Assembly, the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) was created during the first session of the General Assembly in 1948 and consists of all 193 member states of the United Nations.

The Committee discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, and people with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

Committee's efforts focus continuously on one of the main objectives of the UN: the protection and promotion of human rights.

The purpose of SOCHUM is to ensure the human rights of each person and create a Positive and safe social environment. SOCHUM is a very important commission since all the problems in the world generate social effects that must be treated.

SOCHUM is based on the following parameters:

- Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development.
- Maintenance of international peace and security.

- Promotion of human rights.
- Drug control, crime prevention and the fight against international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and its relation to the violation of rights humans.

SOCHUM has become one of the most important organs of the UN and is It benefits from its broad jurisdiction. So, this commission has as a purpose to create advances of all kinds that benefit the world population.

II. History of the topic

Over the last decade, the issue of the protection of the children in armed conflicts has attracted growing attention and importance on the international stage.

Since the inception of the post, the Special Representative has succeeded in placing the issues of children and armed conflict high on the international agenda. Not only are children recognized as being in need of special protection and assistance, but it is now also accepted that children should be more central to peace processes, security issues in general and post-conflict reconstruction. An estimated 90 percent of global conflict-related deaths since 1990 have been civilians, and 80 percent of these have been women and children

The now yearly open debate of children and armed conflict in the Security Council, the resolutions and the subsequent reports of the Secretary General on the progress made on implementing their recommendations means that the issue of children and armed conflict remains high on the agenda on the international community.

III. Topic Information

Armed conflicts have left populations vulnerable to appalling forms of violence, including systematic rape, abduction, amputation, mutilation, forced displacement, sexual exploitation, and genocide. The wide availability of light, inexpensive small arms has contributed to the use of children as soldiers, as well as high levels of violence once conflicts have ended.

Using the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a guiding framework of operative principles and standards provided the first comprehensive human rights assessment of war-affected children. In addition, the report drew particular attention to the situation of child soldiers, internally displaced and refugee children, child victims of landmines and sanctions, and the physical and psychosocial consequences of conflict. It examined the relevance and adequacy of international standards in the protection of children in conflict situations.

Armed conflict consumes physical, economic and human resources and leads to displacement of populations. It can disrupt children's education, lead to their death, and expose them to HIV infection when rape is used as a weapon of war. In the scope and severity of its effects, armed conflict not only devastates child protection, but it is also a threat to achieving any of the Millennium Development Goals, from eradicating extreme poverty and hunger to ensuring environmental sustainability.

Armed conflicts can take over societies, cutting off access to health care and other vital infrastructure, preventing children from going to school and splitting up families. Children around the world are still recruited into armed forces, and rape and sexual assault against children continue to be used as a 'weapon' of war.

Armed conflicts (article 38): States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that children under 15 years of age have no direct part in hostilities. No child below 15 shall be recruited into the armed forces. States shall also ensure the protection and care

of children who are affected by armed conflict as described in relevant international law.

Refugee children (article 22): Special protection shall be granted to a refugee child or to a child seeking refugee status. It is the State's obligation to cooperate with competent organizations which provide such protection and assistance.

IV. UN ACTIONS

In 2014, the campaign *Children, Not Soldiers* started an initiative of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and UNICEF aimed to bring about a global consensus that child soldiers should not be used in the conflict. The campaign was designed to generate momentum, political will, and international support to turn the page once and for all on the recruitment of children by national security forces in conflict situations.

Armed conflict affects everyone in the nation, including and specifically, the youngest members of the population, children. The threats facing children in more recent conflicts are unmatched in their violence, dangerousness, and victimization of children. Much effort has been taken by the international community to define the rights of children and the issues specifically facing children in armed conflict can be found increasingly at the forefront of discussions, but still, the livelihood of children are threatened and disregarded daily as they are targeted by armed conflict.

The creation of international documents has not stopped the persistence of armed conflict around the world and the use of children in the military, for sexual exploitation, and as targets of violence.

Though most in the international community would agree that children should be protected from and during armed conflict situations, there are many factors that make it possible for children to be victimized such as military groups, the vulnerability of

children, continued armed conflict, and the lack of immediate action taken in areas that are of high-risk of violating children's rights in armed conflict.

The future of children in conflict situations is at the hands of the international community to identify, prevent, and protect children in danger of being hurt. The strength of individual nations is important to the overall success of the global system. The psychological trauma and personal stunt in development of children not only affects themselves individually, but it has implications for the community.

V. CONCLUSION

According to the UN: "Nearly 250 million children live in countries and areas affected by armed conflict In the Syrian Arab Republic, the five-year conflict has caused the deaths of more than 250,000 people, including thousands of children. In Afghanistan in 2015, the highest number of child casualties was recorded since the United Nations began systematically documenting civilian casualties in 2009.

In Somalia, the situation continued to be perilous, with an increase of 50 percent in the number of recorded violations against children compared with 2014, with many hundreds of children recruited, used, killed and maimed. In a most troubling example, in South Sudan, children were victims of all six grave violations, in particular during brutal military offensives against opposition forces.

Millions of children, many of whom are unaccompanied or separated from their families are being displaced by armed conflict, These children are at a high risk of grave violations in and around camps, and other areas of refuge. An action is urgently required to alleviate the plight of children displaced by armed conflict and the Secretary-General encourages the Member States to respect the rights of displaced and refugee children and to provide them with the necessary support services."

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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