



JAPAN
METROPOLITAN
MODEL
UNITED
NATIONS

International Labor Organization (ILO)

Background Guide Topic:
Eradicating Child Labor



enzoku Gakuen Model United Nations
jmmunadmin@senzoku.ac.jp

March 27-28, 2021
www.jmmun.org



Director's Note

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the International Labour Organization of the Japan Metropolitan Model United Nations conference 2021! My name is Rinka Maruyama, and I am the director of the Intermediate 1 Committee. It is an honor to chair this group of highly talented and knowledgeable delegates, and I, along with my co-chair, sincerely appreciate your participation. I cannot wait to see you all in March!

As a high school delegate myself, I understand how daunting it is to participate in a conference as large as JMMUN. It is not a rare scene to see a group of passionate delegates arguing, while another furiously types down their draft resolution. For beginner or even intermediate delegates, to witness such a matter may make you extremely nervous. I have one simple tip to ease your nerves: make friends! This may sound ridiculous, considering the serious atmosphere of the conference – nevertheless, this tip helped me enormously during my experience in Global Classrooms International Model United Nations, which is a very prestigious conference held in New York City. At first, I was intimidated by this large mass of aggressive international students, all willing to become leading countries at the conference, and I barely spoke a word. However, during lunch break I remembered something my senpai told me months earlier: make friends. At that point, I did not see the logic behind this advice, but I did it anyway. Though I climbed the staircase to the hotel where the conference was held alone, I marched through the doors of my committee together with eight newly made friends. With those friends, my delegation was able to deliver speeches, write a resolution, *pass* a resolution, and finally, win Honorable Mention. Had I not pushed myself out of my comfort zone to socialize, we probably could not have achieved what we did. Hence, delegates, scary as it sounds, I strongly suggest you try to make friends and enjoy this conference! You may find lifelong friends!

To end on a rather *academic* note, I would like to emphasize that thorough research directly leads to thorough results. Research, and you will be one of the most influential delegates at the conference; research not, and you will find yourself becoming nervous whenever you talk. I hope that you will have a wonderful experience at this conference, and we wish you all the best!

Sincerely,



Rinka Maruyama, Director
International Labour Organization
Senzoku Gakuen Model United Nations Club
Japan Metropolitan Model United Nations 2020
170249na@senzoku-gakuen.ed.jp

Introduction of the Committee

Founded in 1919, the International Labour Organization (ILO) is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations, initially drafted by the Labour Commission. The ILO assumes the role of promoting rights at work, creating employment opportunities, enhancing social protection for all and strengthening tripartism and social dialogue. Currently, the ILO consists of 187 state members.

Furthermore, the ILO emphasizes the significance of decent work and its impact on the Sustainable Development Goals.¹ Along with productive employment, the ILO believes that decent work is the key to reducing poverty and encouraging fair globalization in the face of an international crisis, confirmed by multilateral bodies such as but not limited to G20, G7 and the European Union.²

Key Terms

The ILO defines child labour as follows: work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children;

¹ Decent work. (n.d.). Retrieved September 30, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work/lang--en/index.htm>

² About the ILO. (n.d.). Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/lang--en/index.htm>

³ What is child labour (IPEC). (n.d.). Retrieved August 28, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm>

⁴ Perez, T. E. (2015, September 30). 2014 FINDINGS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR. https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labor_reports/da2014/southafrica.pdf.

and/or interferes with their schooling by: depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely and requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.³

Current Situation

Human Trafficking

Orphaned children are often being the victims of human trafficking. In countries such as South Africa, Ghana, Jordan, children are being trafficked for domestic work and agriculture. Countries have continuously put effort into combating these problems. South Africa has implemented a comprehensive law against human trafficking, including regulations for child labour.⁴ Ghana has been working with the government of the United States of America and implemented a four-year plan aimed at developing the country's system to effectively identify and prosecute child traffickers, provide care for the victims, and prevent child trafficking.⁵ The Jordan government enrolled over 130,000 Syrian refugee children in schools, provided shelter to the children engaged in child labour, and developed educational and financial services.⁶

6

⁵ U.S. Department of State. (2019, August 29). Child Protection Compact Partnerships - United States Department of State. U.S. Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/child-protection-compact-partnerships/>.

⁶ United States Department of Labor's Bureau of International Affairs. (n.d.). *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor - Jordan*. Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/jordan>

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is another worst form of child labour often seen in countries such as Russia, Brazil, Columbia. Governments have made laws and regulations according to the international standards; however, gaps and loopholes remain. In many cases, the advantages of using child labour are considered to outweigh the penalties.

Poverty

In Bulgaria, child labour is a problem deeply connected with poverty. According to the National Human Development Report, “80 percent of families with four or more children live in poverty.”⁷ Countries such as Egypt also face this problem. Overpopulation and increasing unemployment rates are causing the rapid increase in impoverished families. Governments have put efforts into child welfare; however, they are facing problems of budgetary limitations.

Lack of education

Lack of education is another cause for child labour. Children are not able to attend schools due to poverty and undeveloped education systems. For example, in India, children between 12 to 17 years old work up

to 16 hours a day.⁸ This makes it difficult for them to attend school and find a way to get out of the cycle of poverty. Countries such as India and China have implemented the Compulsory Education Law in order to prevent school dropouts. However, despite all the regulations, child labour is still increasing inside the country.

Case Studies

Subtopic I: Education

International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), the largest operational organization within the ILO, recognizes education as a key solution to child labour, and promotes Education for All (EFA).⁹ Access to education is a human right¹⁰, and it is a critical component of individuals' future prosperity and welfare.

In 1990, the commitment to make basic education a high development priority was acknowledged at the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand. The same commitment was further reaffirmed at the 2000 World Education Forum at Dakar, Senegal, where the elimination of gender disparities by 2005 and achievement of gender equality by 2015 were also set as resolutions.¹¹

⁷ Martin, J. W. (2003). *Child Labour in Europe and Central Asia: Problem and Response* (p. 14, Working paper). Geneva: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour International Labour Organization.

⁸ Child Labour in India. (n.d.). Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.soschildrensvillages.ca/news/child-labour-in-india-588>

⁹ About the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) (IPEC). (n.d.). Retrieved August 17, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/programme/lang-en/index.htm>

¹⁰ United Nations. (1948). UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Retrieved October 25, 2020.

¹¹ Education and Development. (2008, January). Retrieved August 19, 2020, from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document>

Education and Gender

Despite the IPEC's commitments, education remains a privilege in many regions, especially for girls – thereby failing to meet the aforementioned framework. In such cultures, girls are expected to assume domestic responsibilities, which may discourage their parents from sending them to school or from letting them complete their education. Girls' lack of decent education may lead to discrimination, being paid less than boys or being restricted to menial roles.¹²

In addition to unfair workload and repeated violence, many Nigerian girls from the northern regions do not attend school, not only due to economic backgrounds, but also in order to avoid being the target of the Islamic extremist group. Mass abductions of schoolgirls by the extremist group has happened numerous times in the past decade.¹³

Another global issue that stands in the way of girls' education is child marriage. More than 41,000 girls aged under 18 get married each day, thus preventing them from finishing high school or even worse in some areas and cultures, middle and elementary education. This pressing issue also widens economic gap between social groups, as girls who experience child marriage are often from

¹² Murray, U., & Quinn, P. (2009). *Give Girls a Chance* (Rep.). Geneva: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour.

¹³ Abubakar, A. (2018, July 30). Child labor continues to be a pressing problem in Nigeria. Girls are especially at risk. Retrieved August 19, 2020, from <https://www.pri.org/stories/2018-07-30/child-labor-continues-be-pressing-problem-nigeria-girls-are-especially-risk>

rather poor families. The young wives and future mothers' lack of education may lead to their children's lack of education as well, which may result in a continued chain of child labour and/or child marriage.¹⁴

Life Skill Education

Unlike education for economically stable children in developed countries, child laborers require education that directly leads to good results. In Indonesia, where there are 2.9 million child laborers¹⁵, IPEC has assisted training programmes, in hopes that child laborers will be able to achieve the “3-Rs”: Rights, Responsibilities and Representation. In 2015, 88 ex-child laborers and at-risk children enrolled in sewing training by IPEC. Sewing is Indonesia's second largest industry with over 1.5 million workers. A report from IPEC states that the training has empowered these children not only with technical skills, but also with comprehensive knowledge on their rights and responsibilities, while also emphasizing the children's increased confidence in themselves with a newly learned set of skills. IPEC hopes that this training will provide better opportunities for children in the future.¹⁶

Subtopic II: Hazardous Child Labour

ILO defines hazardous child labour as, “work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions that

¹⁴ Girls' Education. (2017, September 25). Retrieved October 01, 2020, from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/girlseducation>

¹⁵ Mirza, A. (2018). Indonesia commits to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2022 | UN News. Retrieved August 19, 2020, from <https://news.un.org/en/gallery/535372>

¹⁶ *SPOTLIGHT: Special Child Labour and Education Edition* (pp. 2-3, Rep.). (2015). Jakarta: ILO.

could result in a child being killed, or injured or made ill as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements.”¹⁷

Sugarcane Production

According to the 1995 US Department of Labor report, in Brazil approximately 90% of the children are unregistered workers. Most of the employers do not provide protective clothing, causing over half the children to suffer occupational accidents. Furthermore, over 40% of the children are found to be working more than 40 hours per week, which leads to the children having irreparable health issues.¹⁸

In Mayuge district, Eastern Uganda, children working at sugar farms are engaged in fertilizing, cutting, and transporting the canes. In 2002, a trade union investigation was conducted, showing that the children are facing health problems such as the exposure to hazardous pesticides, injuries from using knives or lifting loads. In addition, the long working hours without proper protection causes the children to have snake and insect bites.

Fishing and aquaculture

Children are engaged in the harvesting of wild fish, and domestic production of aquatic

organisms. Fishing includes various tasks, from light work to hazardous work: managing nets and fish cases, line fishing and diving, cleaning and processing fish. These activities may entail long hours, extreme temperatures and harsh weather conditions. According to the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, in one African country, children under 15 years of age composed one-third of the labour force in the fishing industry. Some work for 10–12 hours a day without protection, which makes them face risks from getting stabbed by sharp bones and hooks, or being poisoned by venomous fish and sea snakes.¹⁹

Subtopic III: Corporate Social

The ILO is heavily concerned about the existence of child labour in all stages of supply chains, including agriculture, manufacture and retail. Likewise, companies aim to minimize and eliminate child labour in their production processes as well, for it conflicts with company values and is an inconsistent source of workforce. The Social Dialogue Section of ILO-IPEC assists companies' efforts to reduce child labour in compliance with the Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age and Convention No. 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour.²⁰

¹⁷ Hazardous child labour (IPEC). (n.d.). Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/WorstFormsofChildLabour/Hazardouschildlabour/lang--en/index.htm>

¹⁸ Hazardous child labour in agriculture, sugarcane sector (Safety and health). Fact sheet: Hazardous child labour in agriculture, sugarcane sector (Safety and health). (2004, April 1). http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_5713/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁹ Gunn, S. (2011). *Children in hazardous work* (pp. 25-27, Rep.). Geneva: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

²⁰ Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and child labour (IPEC). (n.d.). Retrieved August 19, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Action/CSR/lang--en/index.htm>

Child Labour Platform (CLR)

The Child Labour Platform is a membership-based workstream led by the UN Global Compact Labour Working Group, and it is the leading business initiative to eradicate child labour in supply chains. The CLR specializes in assessing risks of child labour and enabling member companies access to information and support from the ILO.²¹

Currently, under the pandemic, the CLP is hosting virtual meetings, events, campaigns and webinars in order to help businesses and individuals advocate for elimination of child labour. These programs specialize in topics such as COVID-19 and regional meetings to eradicate child labour.²²

Statements from Companies

In the past, many major and minor companies have been accused of exploiting children in their production supply processes. In 2015, when the U.S. Labour Department conducted a research about American corporations and child labour, it was revealed that companies such as Nestle, Mars and Hershey could not guarantee that their production lines were completely devoid of child labour. In recent statements, however, the aforementioned companies affirmed that they have taken steps to reduce their reliance on child labour.²³

²¹ Child Labour Platform. (2018). *Child Labour Platform: A Business-led Initiative to Eliminate Child Labour in Supply Chains* [Brochure]. Geneva: Author. Retrieved August 19, 2020, from https://www.ilo.org/avcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipecc/documents/publication/wcms_639702.pdf

²² Events. (n.d.). Retrieved September 30, 2020, from <https://www.alliance87.org/events/>

Past Actions

Alongside the ILO, other organizations of the United Nations have been conducting various strategies to eradicate child labour.

In 2010, UNICEF launched the Global Out-Of-School Children Initiative (OOSCI) in order to advance international efforts towards primary education. The OOSCI aims to collect and clarify data and analysis on the issue of child labour and to develop policies and strategies that appropriately match the needs of out-of-school children, which includes “transfer” care for children (re)entering education.²⁴

Furthermore, the United Nations urges the world to stand against child labour through the introduction of World Day Against Child Labour: June 12th. In 2020, due to COVID-19, the World Day was conducted as a virtual campaign in cooperation with Global March Against Child Labour and the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA). The campaign featured a virtual debate with UN specialists such as Mr. Guy Ryder (Director-General of the ILO), Ms Henrietta Fore (Executive Director of UNICEF) and Mr. Roberto Suarez-Santos (Secretary General of the IOE). The full video can be found on YouTube.²⁵

²³ Whoriskey, P., & Siegel, R. (2019, June 05). *Cocoa's Child Laborers*. Retrieved October 01, 2020, from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/business/hershey-nestle-mars-chocolate-child-labor-west-africa/>

²⁴ *Child Labour and UNICEF in Action: Children at the Centre* (p. 8, Rep.). (2014). New York, NY: UNICEF.

²⁵ Ryder, G. (Director). (2020, June 12). *World Day Against Child Labour 2020* [Video file]. Retrieved October 01, 2020, from

Moreover, the United Nations has declared 2021 as the international year for the Elimination of Child Labour. The resolution adopted by the UN urges countries “to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.”²⁶ The draft of this resolution was presented by the delegation of Argentina, and was adopted by the Assembly without a vote. There still remains a conflict within this consensus, however, as the United States refused to “view the Convention on the Rights of the Child as constituting the standard for child protection,”²⁷ emphasizing their point that they do not wish to expand existing rights or create new ones.

Questions to Consider

This committee recognizes and emphasizes the importance of research, as it is the only way delegates can engage in efficient and effective conversations. In order to have sophisticated debates, delegates are expected to be able to fluently respond to questions listed below:

- How does your country handle child labour? Has it carried out actions to

eradicate child labour with/without the help of the UN?

- How does education work in your country? What system does it follow? Does it recognize out-of-school children? If so, how?
- How do companies in your country ensure that their supply chains are devoid of child labour?
- What led to the spread of child labour market in your country? Is there a specific branch of production that has encouraged and enlarged child labour?
- How does your country aim to eliminate child labour internationally? If it is a developed country, how does it help developing countries overcome this struggle?
- Do your country’s cultures and histories affect the current situation?

Additionally, resolutions that are to be submitted during the conference must address the aforementioned subtopics, though delegates are also permitted to introduce new aspects and topics. Moreover, resolutions must acknowledge stances of both developed and developing nations in order to promote a strategy that is universally applicable.

Resolutions are recommended to answer the following questions:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=KJE_pMxsEgU&feature=emb_logo

²⁶ UN adopts resolution declaring 2021 as the Intl. Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. (2019, July 28). Retrieved October 01, 2020, from <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/un-adopts-resolution-declaring-2021-as-the-intl-year-for-the-elimination-of-child-labour/>

²⁷ General Assembly, Adopting 5 Texts, Establishes 2021 International Year for Ending Child Labour, Promotes Cooperation between United Nations, Regional Organizations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. (2019, July 25). Retrieved October 01, 2020, from <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12167.doc.htm>

- How will the resolution impact the lives of current and former child laborers? How will it change the current situation?
- What responsibilities and recommendations does this resolution assign to countries and governmental sectors?
- How can the committee update and modify any particular plans to ensure that they specifically meet the needs of the community in question?

Guidelines for Position Papers

Position papers must clearly articulate the current situation of your country and briefly explain the past actions it has taken, further denoting possible solutions. Papers may also include international resolutions and strategies to eradicate child labour; however, the main focus **must** be on your country. Every year, a handful of delegates submit position papers with very basic information of their countries, such as geographical location and major trade exports. Unless such information directly relates to the topic of child labour, it should not be addressed in position papers at all.

Closing Remarks

I would like to thank you again for your participation in JMMUN. We hope that this experience will introduce you to new perspectives and interests. Stay healthy and wash your hands!

Works Cited

About the ILO. (n.d.). Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/lang-en/index.htm>

About the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) (IPEC). (n.d.). Retrieved August 17, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/programme/lang-en/index.htm>

Abubakar, A. (2018, July 30). Child labor continues to be a pressing problem in Nigeria. Girls are especially at risk. Retrieved August 19, 2020, from <https://www.pri.org/stories/2018-07-30/child-labor-continues-be-pressing-problem-nigeria-girls-are-especially-risk>.

Andringa, Peter. "Child Labour Persists in Colombia, New Report Indicates." *The Bogotá Post*, 9 Nov. 2017, thebogotapost.com/colombia-makes-some-progress-tackling-child-labor/25188/.

Child Labour in India. (n.d.). Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.soschildrensvillages.ca/news/child-labour-in-india-588>

Child Labour and UNICEF in Action: Children at the Centre (p. 8, Rep.). (2014). New York, NY: UNICEF.

Child Labour Platform. (2018). *Child Labour Platform: A Business-led Initiative to Eliminate Child Labour in Supply Chains* [Brochure]. Geneva: Author. Retrieved August 19, 2020, from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_639702.pdf

Gunn, S. (2011). *Children in hazardous work* (pp. 25-27, Rep.). Geneva: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and child labour (IPEC). (n.d.). Retrieved August 19, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Action/CSR/lang-en/index.htm>

Decent work. (n.d.). Retrieved September 30, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work/lang-en/index.htm>

Education and Development. (2008, January). Retrieved August 19, 2020, from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document>

Events. (n.d.). Retrieved September 30, 2020, from <https://www.alliance87.org/events/>

United States Department of Labor's Bureau of International Affairs. (n.d.). *2019 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor - Colombia*. Retrieved October 25, 2020, from www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/colombia.

United States Department of Labor's Bureau of International Affairs. (n.d.). *2019 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor - Jordan*. Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/jordan>

General Assembly, Adopting 5 Texts, Establishes 2021 International Year for Ending Child Labour, Promotes Cooperation between United Nations, Regional Organizations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. (2019, July 25). Retrieved October 01, 2020, from <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12167.doc.htm>

Girls' Education. (2017, September 25). Retrieved October 01, 2020, from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/girlseducation>

Hazardous child labour in agriculture, sugarcane sector (Safety and health). Fact sheet: Hazardous child labour in agriculture, sugarcane sector (Safety and health). (2004, April 1). http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_5713/lang--en/index.htm.

Hazardous child labour (IPEC). (n.d.). Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/WorstFormsofChildLabour/Hazardouschildlabour/lang--en/index.htm>

Martin, J. W. (2003). *Child Labour in Europe and Central Asia: Problem and Response* (p. 14, Working paper). Geneva: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour International Labour Organization.

Mirza, A. (2018). Indonesia commits to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2022 | UN News. Retrieved August 19, 2020, from <https://news.un.org/en/gallery/535372>

Murray, U., & Quinn, P. (2009). *Give Girls a Chance* (Rep.). Geneva: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour.

Ryder, G. (Director). (2020, June 12). *World Day Against Child Labour 2020* [Video file]. Retrieved October 01, 2020, from https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=KJE_pMxsEgU&feature=emb_logo

SPOTLIGHT: Special Child Labour and Education Edition (pp. 2-3, Rep.). (2015). Jakarta: ILO.

UN adopts resolution declaring 2021 as the Intl. Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. (2019, July 28). Retrieved October 01, 2020, from <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/un-adopts-resolution-declaring-2021-as-the-intl-year-for-the-elimination-of-child-labour/>

United Nations. (1948). UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Retrieved October 25, 2020.

U.S. Department of State. (2019, August 29). Child Protection Compact Partnerships - United States Department of State. U.S. Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/child-protection-compact-partnerships/>.

What is child labour (IPEC). (n.d.). Retrieved August 28, 2020, from <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm>

Whoriskey, P., & Siegel, R. (2019, June 05). Cocoa's Child Laborers. Retrieved October 01, 2020, from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/business/hershey-nestle-mars-chocolate-child-labor-west-africa/>

Perez, T. E. (2015, September 30). 2014 FINDINGS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR. https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labor_reports/tda2014/southafrica.pdf.