

**XXXIV**

**TECMUN**

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**Human Rights Watch**

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Dear

Delegates,

Welcome to the thirty-fourth edition of TECMUN! Whether you are entirely new to this event or masters of debate who have already won several prizes in previous editions, I am quite sure that you will all get valuable lessons from this amazing experience, one which has, personally, helped me grow a lot as a person over the last few years. I am sure that if you are an avid participant in Model United Nations yourself, you know what I am talking about—some people might say that these events seem incredibly nerdy and useless, but I know for a fact that many valuable skills are learned from them, and, best of all, that they can be really, really fun; even if it is not in a way that people might call conventionally fun.

Whichever your reason might be for being here, I think it is the idea of being able to change the world from a committee room that calls our attention the most. It sure captures my imagination. The endless amount of proposals one can come up with to fix real, tangible problems that the world is currently living through should be more than enough to inspire all of you to keep moving forward and keep laying the groundwork for a great, big, beautiful tomorrow. We might not live in a perfect world. With political turmoil arising all over the globe and the constant threat of annihilation by a variety of different factors, things can often look pretty bad for us. We might think that there's no hope left for humanity, and that there's nothing that we can do—specially us, at such a young age. However, TECMUN perfectly proves that age is not a factor that determines whether or not we have what it takes to change the world. We just need to have a better mindset that allows us to explore all of the possibilities of a better world. What ever happened to that sense of optimism that the second half of the twentieth century was characterized for, even in the midst of international tensions and the fear of nuclear destruction? Is there no room left for hope in the world? I would very much like you delegates to prove that there is.

All in all, thanks for taking this challenge, now be sure to enjoy it. Work as hard as you can, yet also make friends and have a good time. Embrace your competitive spirit, yet also remember that this event is not all about winning. It's about enjoying this experience as much as you possibly can. Make the most out of it, go ahead and have fun—this might just be the best time of your life.

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Dante Uriel Pineda Cortés  
President of Human Rights Watch  
XXXIV TECMUN

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# Outline of Human Rights Watch

Founded in 1974 with the goal of addressing human right violations in the Soviet Union and other European countries, Human Rights Watch is an international non- governmental and non-profit organization dedicated to the investigation of abuses and the safeguard of human rights all over the world, set on ensuring justice by calling governments and international bodies into action. Headquartered in New York City, Human Rights Watch works with approximately 400 members all around the world, including human rights professionals, lawyers, journalists, and academics of diverse origins and nationalities.

## **Topic A**

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The critical humanitarian situation in Mexico  
as an outcome of the War on Drugs

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*By: Dante Uriel Pineda Cortés  
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## ***Introduction***

It is estimated that since former Mexican President Felipe Calderón declared war on drug trafficking in the year 2006, more than 240,000 people have perished as a direct result of it. Despite the various new security measures that have been implemented by the Mexican government over the years, the amount of violence and insecurity in the country as a consequence of the war has risen so much in the past few years that it has led the country to find itself in the middle of a humanitarian crisis, a crisis reminiscent of those undergone by countries involved in geopolitical belic conflicts. Forced disappearances, the militarization of public security, torture, and extrajudicial executions are just a few examples of the many ways in which human rights have been violated all around the country since the conflict began—a conflict that, after years of confrontations, people regard as useless, headed towards a direction that is unclear.

Despite the fact that Human Rights Watch had a meeting with President Calderón in the year 2011 to present a report of systematic abuses carried out by the Mexican police and armed forces during his presidency, no official conclusion on the matter was reached—yet one thing remains clear: the war on drugs brought about a great number of casualties and violations of human rights, most of which went entirely unaccounted for. In the year 2012, former governor of the State of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto was sworn in as president, and despite promising change and a clearer picture of the conflict, the overall situation continued to claim victims. During Peña Nieto’s administration, the Mexican Office for the National Defense (SEDENA) stopped keeping an official record of civil deaths caused by soldiers. Though the administration has since come to an end, the war on drugs still remains as an unresolved conflict—albeit one that has remained fairly stagnant for a number of years, never reaching quite the amount of violence that it was known for at the height of the Calderón administration. The conflict has settled down, yet a lot of questions remain unanswered and many human rights remain violated, leading the Mexican people to seek the help of the international community in order to solve this precarious humanitarian situation.

## ***Preface of the conflict***

Given its strategic geographical position as a transition zone between the United States and Central America, Mexico has always played a pivotal role in the history of drug commerce and trafficking. Starting in the early twentieth century with the smuggling of alcohol into the United States, vast illegal markets that make their way to the north of the continent have since been

successfully established and fairly prosperous all over Mexico, thus opening the doors for a large number of people to become drug traffickers and make a living by smuggling drugs from an end of the continent to the other. Not only is Mexico the main stop along the way of South American drugs, but it is also one of the biggest producers of heroin and marijuana all over the world, second only to African countries such as Afghanistan and Morocco.

Besides the fact that Latin America is a territory provided with the right conditions for an extensive growth of illicit drugs, such as cocaine and marijuana, this problem is also heightened by the alarmingly high rate of drug use in the United States—it is estimated that by 2013, over nine percent of the total American population was commonly using a recreational drug.

In the 1960s, illicit drugs started being introduced into the United States in a larger scale, and by the end of the 1970s, there was already a steady, well-established market led by Colombian trafficker Pablo Escobar, who oversaw the transportation of very large quantities of drugs from Colombia to the United States, establishing connections with various Mexican smugglers who over the years began developing complex structures and acquiring diverse benefits, eventually forming cartels dedicated to the transportation of drugs along the country. In the year 1980, the *Guadalajara* Cartel was established by former Federal Agent Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo, who over the years became a very close ally of Pablo Escobar. However, by the end of the decade, the main leaders of the cartel had been caught, and, as such, Félix Gallardo decided to disintegrate it and assign each of its important routes to some his most trusted cartel members, thus giving birth to the *Tijuana*, *Ciudad Juárez*, *Sonora*, *Golfo*, and *Sinaloa* Cartels, led by Ramón and Benjamín Arellano Félix, the Carrillo Fuentes family, Miguel Caro Quintero, Juan García Ábrego, and Joaquín Guzmán Loera, respectively.

Rivalries among the newborn cartels began with the assassination of Félix Gallardo in 1989, yet, despite minor breakouts, never escalated during the decade of the 1990s. The situation began to worsen, however, with the withering of some cartels and the creation of new ones, such as *Los Zetas* and *La Familia Michoacana*, which quickly began fighting for dominance over the most important trade routes into the United States, sparking a number of brutal confrontations that the Mexican government would rarely ever respond to, and creating a country-wide state of chaos and violence that would plague the country as it stepped into the twenty-first century.

### ***The War on Drugs begins***

Seeing the complicated situation that the country had found itself in regarding the cartels that had sprouted all over it and had secured various commercial routes into the United States, former Secretary of Energy Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, a candidate for the presidency in the 2006 election, made it one of his main campaign promises to find a way to put an end to the alarming situation. As such, on December 10th, 2006, nine days after his inauguration as president, his incoming administration declared a full-on offensive against all drug cartels in Mexico, officially starting the war on drugs. One day later, Calderón announced the implementation of a new operation in the state of Michoacán, where a series of violent conflicts had recently broken out between two opposing drug cartels—*Los Zetas* and *Familia Michoacana*. Under the name *Operación Michoacán*, this operative was carried out mainly by officers of the Mexican federal police, along with the help of the Mexican navy and the Mexican army.

Approximately 6,500 soldiers were mobilized to Michoacán, in the hopes of reducing the high rates of violence, crime, corruption and drug trafficking that plagued the northern part of the country. This first operation, as well as those that followed, with the set goal of arresting the main leaders of the most powerful cartels in the country, were partly successful—a total of 25 drug lords were killed as a result of the efforts carried out by the military. However, said victory brought about unexpected consequences, much to President Calderón's dismay: violence and murder rates increased in cities in the north of the country, such as Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez, around 15,000 people were killed in relation to these operations in the first year alone, and it is estimated that a total of 45,000 people died during the six-year term as a result of the war waged in the northern zone. It is estimated that in 2011, the most violent year of the war so far, the number of civilian casualties in confrontations rose over two thousand percent, whilst criminal groups began growing at a rate nine hundred percent faster than before the war.

### ***Under a new administration***

Five years after the war was declared, former governor of the State of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto began his run for president, and while he did not establish any specific proposals regarding the war on drugs during his campaign, he did promise the reevaluation of the strategies that were currently being carried out and the redirection of the efforts, which would be more focused on protecting the human rights of all citizens, rather than continuing to wage war and generate violence against the drug cartels. He also promised the creation of a National Gendarmerie (a proposal which came to fruition in 2014, yet has never played a role in the war

on drugs), the doubling of the war effort in the most violent zones in the country, and the change of the penitentiary system into one which would reform criminals instead of encouraging them.

On December 1st, 2012, Peña Nieto was inaugurated as president, and, sure enough, some of his very first actions included the updating, upgrading, and reinforcing of the strategies which were being carried out by the previous government, successfully capturing various cartel leaders and disintegrating certain subdivisions. Self-defense groups began to emerge throughout the country, mainly in the state of Michoacán, playing an important role fighting against the members of remaining cartels, and helping the government with the task of taking back the occupied areas. For the first time since the year 2007, the rates of violence and casualties in the whole country saw a decrease instead of an increase, and by mid-2013, most of the cartels which had been present at the beginning of the war had been entirely disbanded or divided into smaller, more volatile groups. For the first time since the war was declared, its objective was being met.

This short-lived progress came to an end, however, with the capture and subsequent arrest of Joaquín Guzmán Loera, leader of the Sinaloa cartel, on February 22nd, 2014. Seeing his capture as an opportunity to take over his territories, the *Jalisco Nueva Generación* Cartel launched an offensive against the self-defense groups which had successfully taken back the state of Michoacán, starting a brand new conflict and resuming violence in the southwestern part of the country. Soon after, this same cartel carried out a series of blockades and attacks against federal forces and civilians in the state of Jalisco, worsening the overall state of the conflict even further. From there on, the amount of violence in specific parts of the country began escalating once again, reaching its worst point in the year 2016, in which over twenty thousand people were killed as a direct result of the war, and thousands more disappeared, leading Peña Nieto to seek different strategies against the critical situation, yet never being able to fully regain control of the country again, ending his administration with an amount of violence and human right violations just as high as when he started it.

### ***The current state of the war***

By the end of 2017, left-wing politician Andrés Manuel López Obrador arose as one of the main candidates for the 2018 presidential election. Since early on in his campaign, he established the need of the incoming government to entirely halt the war on drugs, and he claimed that he would not discard any previous strategy but would instead analyze and evaluate all of the actions which had been carried out previously. Now the first left-wing president that

Mexico has ever seen, has begun to carry out many of the actions he promised in his campaign. Many changes are expected, and he has promised a pacific process in order to bring the war to an end, ensuring justice and amnesty all over the country. He has also emphasized the need to rehabilitate criminals via diverse social programs and has even considered the legalization of marijuana harvesting in order to regularize its trafficking, a proposal which has proven to be controversial, as many people around the country consider that said action would not contribute to bring the war to an end.

Even though the Obrador administration began recently, his commitments to regularize the public force and put an end to corruption are promising and have supporters which side with him, hoping that this entirely new focus may be able to end the conflict and its consequential humanitarian crisis for good, by taking an entirely new direction that the country has never seen or tried before. However, a lot of people doubt the effectivity of these proposals in a country which has been plagued by violence and has shown no tolerance for pacific measures in the last eleven years.

### ***Side effects and human right violations***

As previously stated, the estimated number of casualties claimed by the War on Drugs by the end of the Peña Nieto administration is that of about 250,000 people, thus establishing the last eleven years as the most violent that Mexico has ever seen in its entire history. The assassination of political figures, murders of thousands of innocent civilians caught in crossfires, kidnappings, forced recruiting in several states, and general disturbances of peace in various different locations all around the country are among some of the most widespread human right violations that have been carried out since the war began on December of 2006, violating some of the main rights established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, yet, mainly, the right to live.

Forced disappearances and subsequent documented torture of political agents have also been commonplace as the years have gone on, and there have been cases in which humble workers in poorer regions of the country have been forced by drug traffickers to abandon their lands under threats of violence and torture, violating the human right to privacy and lack of arbitrary interference with one's family and home. Even South and Central American migrants crossing the country on their way to the northern border have often been exploited or unwillingly recruited by drug cartels, going against some of their basic liberties. It has even

been found that some of the still active cartels take a part in human trafficking and sexual slavery, forcing young people to work in drug factories with inhuman conditions, and even pressuring their captured victims into prostitution—violating the rights to liberty and freedom established in articles 3 and 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Seeing as how the concerning humanitarian situation in the country seemed to return to its original state under the administration of President Peña Nieto, and as the proposals established by López Obrador start being carried out, the people of Mexico now turn to the international community in the hopes that it might be able to find a solution to the conflict that has terrorized a great portion of the country for over an entire decade now.

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## *Glossary*

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### **A**

**Ally:** A nation, group, or person associated with another or others for some common cause or purpose.

**(to) Arise:** To get up, rise, or awaken.

### **B**

**Blockade:** The closing off of a port, city, etc., to prevent the coming in or going out, often for political purposes.

**Breakout:** A violent outbreak.

### **D**

**Dismay:** Sudden or complete loss of courage.

### **E**

**Extrajudicial execution:** The execution of a person by governmental authorities or individuals without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process.

### **G**

**Gendarmerie:** A body of police officers in some European and Latin American countries.

### **O**

**(to) Oversee:** To supervise.

### **P**

**(to) Perish:** To pass away as a result of violence or poor living conditions.

**(to) Plague:** Cause continual trouble or distress to.

**Precarious:** Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse. Dependent on chance; uncertain.

### **S**

**Smuggling:** The illegal movement of goods into or out of a country.

**(to) Sprout:** To start to grow; to spring up, in an unexpected and unprecedented way.

**Stagnant:** Showing no activity; dull and sluggish.

**Systematic abuse:** Process by which an individual is dealt with unfairly by a system of harm in ways that the person cannot protect themselves against.

## T

**Transition zone:** Any of several physical zones in which the properties or the behavior of something undergoes a radical change.

## U

**Unaccounted (for):** Not included in through being lost or disregarded.

## V

**Volatile:** Liable to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse.

## W

**Withering:** The action of declining or decaying.

## Topic B

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The growing rate of child marriage in African and Middle Eastern countries

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## ***Introduction***

Formally defined as a marital union, whether formal or informal, in which one of the involved parties is younger than 18 years old, child marriage is a common practice which is still widespread in many different countries all over the world, oftentimes remaining as a prominent part of said countries' cultural heritage given its heavy links to local religions, beliefs, or traditions—some of which date back thousands of years. Child marriage has been found to be practiced in all regions of the world. However, the areas most heavily affected by the aforementioned issue have been found to be Sub-Saharan Africa and nearby countries, with the Middle Eastern region shown to be heavily affected as well.

Even though the amount of child marriages around the world has vastly decreased since the beginning of the twenty-first century, this alarming practice has in no way come close to being eradicated. It is estimated that approximately 650 million women who inhabit the world today got married before the age of eighteen, and, as of late, it has been found that around twelve million underage girls get married each year worldwide—approximately 37 thousand each day, as reported by the United Nations Children's Fund. It should be noted, however, that, while the most widely affected, women are not the only victims of child marriage: around 150 million men suffer from the consequences of said issue as well.

As previously mentioned, there is still a long way to go for child marriage to be eradicated in its entirety, an objective which was set among the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, aiming to “eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations” (United Nations General Assembly, 2015) by the year 2030. 193 countries agreed upon said goal as they adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, and have been steadily working towards said goal in the years since. While finding a solution for an issue which has been present in many different cultures for many generations has proven to be a complicated task, the international community shall keep on developing new solutions and elaborating on already existing solutions to put an end to this alarming situation.

## ***Background of child marriage***

While the main reasons why child marriage is still commonplace tend to vary among the different regions in which it is practiced, it is often an issue rooted in gender inequality and antiquated beliefs which are still prominent among many cultures. Poverty, insecurity, and a lack of education also play key roles in the practices largely carried out by families in the hopes

of ensuring a better, more stable future for their children. In fact, there are many countries in which child marriage is not a simple tradition or a one-off practice, but is instead viewed as a social norm, one which has existed for generations and would be irregular to live without.

Gender Inequality as a cause of child marriage can easily be observed given the highly imbalanced ratio of girl-to-boy marriages around the world; girls suffer from this issue and all of its respective consequences vastly more than boys do. Girls are more likely to be handed off into arranged marriages as a consequence of outdated ideas and beliefs which establish that men can play a prominent part in controlling a woman's sexuality, being superior to the opposite sex and thus being allowed to have a more complete education and a more important opinion when it comes to marriage.

The problem is also innate in cultures which consider the onset of adulthood to happen very early on, and at a specific moment: as soon as women experience their menstrual cycle for the first time. There are still many cultures around the world which believe that once the cycle begins, girls become women and are ready to take on the responsibilities that said transformation entails, despite the fact that most girls have not reached emotional maturity so early on in their lives. This sudden shift of responsibilities, obligations and lifestyles can prove to be very psychologically demanding and sometimes even damaging to most girls forced into child marriage, many of which are required to leave their families when they are even younger than fifteen years old.

Lastly, economic reasons are also a very prominent cause of child marriage, acting as the driving force behind thousands of arranged relationships: parents from families with scarce resources often seek men with stable economic conditions in order to ensure a better future for their daughters, who may otherwise remain in the same conditions for the rest of their lives. Child marriage is also seen by some families as a way out of having to pay a child's tuition and school fees, instead turning said burdens away for another family to deal with.

### ***Impact on Human Rights***

Child marriage can be considered as serious humanitarian situation given the amount of human rights these unions tend to endanger. First and foremost is a child's right to choice. Article 16 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes that "Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses" (United Nations General Assembly, 1948). This article is more often than not violated when child marriage

takes place, which is almost always arranged by the parents of young children—sometimes even before they are born. These unions are very seldomly, if ever, agreed upon by the underage party.

Young girls, often married to largely older men, are normally forced to abandon their old way of life and adapt into an entirely new routine which requires them to behave like adults. Overnight, girls are forced to become women as they get burdened with the complicated responsibilities of undergoing pregnancy, raising children, keeping a household and sustaining a relationship, all while mostly psychologically unprepared—at an age in which girls elsewhere might still be studying and playing with other kids their age. The main impact of child marriage on the life of young children comes, however, at the time in which they are forced to abandon their schools in order to start raising a family, thus interfering with article 28 of the Office of the High Commissioner for the Human Rights' Convention on the Rights of the Child, which establishes that all children have a right to education, and that secondary and higher education should be encouraged in all countries.

The stable health of underage children is yet another main factor that finds itself in jeopardy as soon as a young girl gets married to an older man, specially in cultures which encourage motherhood as soon as marriage takes place. Besides the dangers of contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, child marriage often leads to teenage or even child pregnancy, a situation which is largely dangerous to a child's health—both physically and psychologically—and can even lead to life-threatening conditions, particularly when it comes to younger, less developed and unprepared girls. Women who give birth before they turn 15 years old are five times more likely to die in childbirth than those women that give birth between the ages of 20 and 24, the biologically ideal age to give birth to children. Pregnancy prior to adulthood can be scarring for life, yet, in many countries, is overlooked, unaccounted for, and, sometimes, even motivated and celebrated.

In certain situations, child marriage can become a mean of exploitation and modern slavery. When families arrange their daughter's marriage in exchange for money, or, in countries such as Afghanistan, as a way to settle debts, it can even be considered as a way of trafficking. Child marriage as a form of slavery takes place whenever children are married without consent, manipulated through violence and threats, and, once married, forced to perform various chores and domestic activities around the household, raise children, and take part in sexual activities, most of which are not consensual. Domestic violence and harmful

power imbalances often arise as a result of all the aforementioned conditions, all of which a young child is not ready to undertake.

### ***Sub-Saharan Africa***

17 percent of all the world's women who got married as children live in Africa. This continent stands as one of the two regions which, to this day, still carries out the practice of child marriage at an alarmingly high rate, second only to Southern Asia: it is estimated that about 40 percent of all girls in the Sub-Saharan region get married before turning eighteen, and these numbers only worsen when looking at certain individual countries such as the Central African Republic, in which 60 percent of all underage girls are married; or Niger, in which this number escalates up to 77 percent, accounting for three in each four girls being married around the country, with some brides being as young as nine years old. Unlike the southern regions of Asia, in which the rates of child marriage have been largely decreasing over the last few decades, the numbers in Sub-Saharan Africa actually seem to be on the rise, and it has been estimated that, unless a solution to the problem is soon found, these numbers will have doubled by the year 2050 and will have long surpassed the South Asian estimates.

Many countries in the region have established laws which forbid marriage prior to the age of 18, yet these laws know very little enforcement and are thus not often followed. In various occasions, cases which are actually prosecuted are never met with consequences, falling victims to the large amounts of corruption that plague southern African countries.

As previously established, one of the main driving forces behind child marriage is poverty, and it is estimated that in Sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 42 percent of the population lives in a condition of extreme poverty (Defined by the World Banks as a situation in which a person's earnings consist of less than 1.25 US dollars per day), thus forcing many families to seek alternate ways to earn money, often opting for child marriage in exchange for economical resources, crops, and cattle.

### ***Northern Africa and the Middle East***

While in the Northern regions of Africa and the Middle East the number of child marriages are not as high as those observed in Sub-Saharan Africa, the statistics are nevertheless alarming. It is estimated that approximately one out of every five girls in this region (collectively known as MENA) get married before turning eighteen; yet, just like in Sub-Saharan Africa, numbers tend

to vary among different countries: Algeria has a child marriage rate of approximately three percent, whilst Yemen has been found to have over 32 percent.

In the MENA region, child marriage has been heavily influenced by factors other than just poverty and lack of education. Situations such as the Syrian crisis have left many families in the dire need of economic support and led many parents to resort to child marriage in order to survive. Many families also see child marriage as a way to protect their daughters from the rampant sexual violence and the many harsh conditions which have been originated by the crisis. The refugee crisis in Jordan and gender violence attacks carried out by the Islamic State over the last few years have also vastly increased the number of child marriages across the region, and it has even been found that some members of the Islamic State have used forced marriage as a weapon of war.

### ***Measures taken***

Besides being listed among the Sustainable Development Goals and firmly positioned as a situation which must be given priority to in the global development agenda, child marriage is an issue which has also been brought to the attention of various international organizations and even some of the governments in which the problem has the most presence.

In the year 2013, the 54 countries that make up the African Union came together in order to construct the Agenda 2063, a 50-year action plan which aims to create the vision and lay the groundwork for “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in international arena” (African Union, 2013). Among its various aspirations, the action plan urges the countries of Africa to bring child marriage to an end, establishing that by the year 2063, “All harmful social practices (especially female genital mutilation and child marriages) will be ended and barriers to quality health and education for women and girls eliminated” (African Union, 2013). The action plan explains that this situation must come to an end in order for the continent to move forward onto a future of further progress and prosperity, given the fact that child marriage is often an obstacle which stands in the way of women with aspirations who could easily be supporting the cause of making Africa a more developed country. The plan establishes that, if given the right opportunities from the very beginning, women can play an important role in impactful social, political and economical choices in the near future.

Within Africa, other regional instruments dedicated to the eradication of child marriage in a short term are the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, established in the year 2000, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, more widely known as the Maputo Protocol, which in its sixth article establishes that "No marriage shall take place without the free and full consent of both parties, and the minimum age of marriage for women shall be 18 years" (African Commission on Human and People's Rights, 2003), aiming to have accomplished said goals by the year 2030.

In the Middle East, the main instrument for the eradication of child marriage, adopted in a collaboration between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is the Regional Accountability Framework of Action to End Child Marriage in the Arab States/Middle East and North Africa (RAF), which aims to ensure the human rights of all children and teenagers in the entire region by encouraging various regional actors to support their protection, active participation, empowerment, and well-being.

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## *Glossary*

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### **A**

**Aforementioned:** Denoting a thing or person previously mentioned.

**Arranged relationship:** Type of marital union where the bride and groom are selected by individuals other than the couple themselves, particularly by family members.

### **B**

**Burden:** A duty or misfortune that causes worry, hardship, or distress.

### **C**

**Consent:** Permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.

**Commonplace:** Not unusual; ordinary.

### **E**

**(to) Entail:** Involve something as a necessary or inevitable part or consequence.

**(to) Eradicate:** Destroy completely; put an end to.

### **H**

**Heritage:** valued objects and qualities such as cultural traditions, unspoiled countryside, and historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations.

### **I**

**Innate:** Inborn; natural.

### **J**

**Jeopardy:** In danger of loss, harm, or failure.

### **M**

**Marital union:** Marriage.

### **O**

**One-off:** Done, made, or happening only once; not the status quo.

**Onset (of something):** The beginning of something, especially something unpleasant.

**Outdated:** Out of date; obsolete.

**Overnight:** Instantly or very quickly.

## **R**

**Rampant:** Flourishing or spreading unchecked.

## **S**

**Scarring:** Mark left by a healed wound, sore, or burn.

**Seldomly:** Not often; rarely.

**Shift:** Move or cause to move from one place to another, especially over a small distance.

**Steadily:** In a regular and even manner.

## **T**

**Tuition:** Teaching or instruction, especially of individual pupils or small groups.

## **V**

**Vastly:** To a very great extent; immensely.