

XXXIII

TECMUN Jr.

United Nations Children's
Emergency Fund

XXXIII TECMUN Jr.
Session Schedule

Wednesday, November 12th

Registration	8:00 – 9:00 h
Opening Ceremony	9:00 – 10:00 h
Break	10:00 – 10:30 h
First Session	10:30 – 12:30 h
Break	12:30 – 13:00 h
Second Session	13:00 – 15:00 h
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h
Third Session	16:00 – 18:00 h

Thursday, November 13th

Master Conference	8:30 – 9:30 h
Break	9:30 – 10:00 h
Fourth Session	10:00 – 12:30 h
Break	12:30 – 13:00 h
Fifth Session	13:00 – 15:00 h
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h
Sixth Session	16:00 – 18:00 h

Friday, November 14th

Seven Session	8:00 – 9:30 h
Break	9:30 – 10:00 h
Eighth Session	10:00 – 12:00 h
Break	12:00 – 12:30 h
Ninth Session	12:30 – 13:45 h
Meal	13:45 – 14:30 h
Closing Ceremony	15:00 – 17:30 h

XXXIII TECMUN Jr.
General Agenda

Secretary General: Abril Valdés Calva

GENERAL COORDINATION

Subsecretary of General Coordination: Mauro Carillo Gálvez
Supervisor of General Coordination for Co. Secretariat: Emiliano Parra Maya

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Subsecretary: Andrea Abigail Salazar López
Supervisor of Coordination: Hannia Nieves José

Plenary Session for the General Assembly

President: Fernada Cisneros Farfán

- A)** Mitigating the legal, humanitarian, and environmental repercussions of the forced relocation in the Republic of Kiribati, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Maldives caused by the increasing sea levels and the historical emissions by developed nations.
- B)** Addressing the conflict in the Taiwan Strait caused by the military activities, airspace violations, and sovereignty claims between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan), with a focus on regional security and international law.

Third Commission of Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Affairs

Presidente: Diego López Peralta

- A)** Measures to regulate human rights violations and punishments against the LGBTQ+ community in Africa.
- B)** Ethical implications of artificial intelligence in healthcare access in countries with developing healthcare systems, like all of East Africa.

Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos

Presidente: Mariana Dueñas Salgado

- A)** Estrategias para garantizar la seguridad y el cumplimiento de derechos humanos de periodistas en los Estados Unidos Mexicanos frente a los ataques derivados del narcotráfico, corrupción estatal y falta de protección por parte del Estado.
- B)** Medidas para salvaguardar los derechos humanos y la seguridad de los inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos de América afectados por las políticas de deportación masiva implementadas por la administración actual del presidente Donald Trump.

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Presidente: Josué Yazid Reyes Oliveros

- A)** Medidas para frenar el tráfico ilegal de especies como amenaza a la biodiversidad y los esfuerzos de conservación global en América del Sur y la Amazonia brasileña

B) Estrategias para mitigar el impacto de los microplásticos en los ecosistemas marinos y su aplicación en el Sudeste Asiático

United Nations Children's Emergency Fund

President: María Fernanda López Islas

A) Actions to strengthen national legislation to prevent child labor in the informal textile industry in urban centers of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, where regulatory systems remain weak and exploitative practices are common.

B) Addressing the rise in mental health issues among children and adolescents following the COVID-19 pandemic with Significance in the Republic of India.

Instituto Interregional de las Naciones Unidas para Investigaciones sobre la Delincuencia y la Justicia

Presidente: Reggina Marie Orta González

A) Acciones para abordar crímenes vinculados al turismo criminal en el Sudeste Asiático, con enfoque en vacíos regulatorios y violaciones de derechos humanos.

B) El crecimiento del cibercrimen transnacional en América Latina como amenaza a la seguridad digital y jurídica.

Comisión de Derecho Internacional

Presidente: Axl Paris Ortega Rodríguez

Tópico A) Estrategias globales para detener la explotación ilegal de recursos naturales en el Amazonas, centrándose en la intervención de empresas extranjeras en Brasil y Perú.

Tópico B) Medidas para evitar el uso del derecho internacional con fines políticos, con énfasis en las sanciones económicas impuestas por los Estados Unidos y la Unión Europea a la Federación de Rusia.

Committee Against Torture

President: Mariana Méndez Cruz

A) Measures to eradicate the degrading and generational torture of genital mutilation of females in the Middle East and Africa.

B) Measures to stop mass repression, forced disappearance, and torture in the criminal procedure of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Histórica Organización de los Estados Americanos

Presidente: Aarón Vázquez Guzmán

A) Mecanismos para eliminar la influencia política del Cártel de Medellín en la República de Colombia priorizando la protección de los derechos humanos de la población. (1976-1993)

B) Medidas para la resolución pacífica del conflicto bélico interno causado por los Contras en la República de Nicaragua mediante la liberación de tensiones políticas entre los Estados Unidos de América y la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas. (1979–1990)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

General Subsecretary: Samantha Salgado Nájjar
Supervisor of Coordination: Alexa Esmeralda Rivera Jimenez

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

President: Valentina Reyes Pardo

A) Mechanisms to address the rise in obstetric violence in Latin America, due to the increasing cases of professional negligence that contribute to the violation of women's reproductive rights.

B) Measures to counter Gender-Based Political Violence Against Women perpetuated by the diffusion of anti-progressive campaigns during electoral processes in the United Mexican States.

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

Presidente: David Trujillo Loza

A) Estrategias para mitigar la crisis masiva de desplazamientos de la República de Sudán a causa de las disputas territoriales entre las Fuerzas Armadas de Sudán (FAS) y las Fuerzas de Apoyo Rápido (FAR).

B) Estrategias para frenar la crisis migratoria de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela hacia países de Latinoamérica y los Estados Unidos de América, manteniendo el enfoque en la violencia generada por las elecciones presidenciales de 2024.

Comisión Económica de las Naciones Unidas para Europa

Presidente: Camila Oliveros Dávila

A) Medidas para mitigar el impacto económico y social del envejecimiento poblacional en Europa Occidental y del Norte, con especial atención a la sostenibilidad de los sistemas de pensiones y salud.

B) Acciones para fomentar la transición energética a energías renovables en países en desarrollo, con enfoque en Asia Central.

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

President: Claudia Guadalupe Pfeiffer Benítez

A) Measures to Address the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic with Emphasis on Compliance with the International Disarmament Regime.

B) Approaches to Strengthening Nuclear Non-Proliferation in the Middle East with Focus on Adherence to International Norms.

Comisión Económica para África

Presidente: Rebeca Farah Romero Pérez

A) Estrategias para contrarrestar la hambruna extrema y la escasez de recursos en origen al conflicto civil en la República del Sudán del Sur.

B) Estrategias de intervención para el deterioro de la economía de la República de Sierra Leona a causa de la epidemia de ébola.

Fonds Monétaire International

Président: Melany Fayed Cervantes Espinoza

A) Mesures visant à réduire la perte d'emplois ruraux en République Fédérative du Brésil, en particulier dans la région du Cerrado, en raison de la dégradation des terres agricoles.

B) Actions visant à réduire la dette extérieure de manière juste et organisée pour renforcer et diversifier l'économie africaine, en particulier en République du Zambie.

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura

Presidente: Aarón Badillo Aguilar

Tópico Único) Medidas para la retención del desplazamiento forzado de comunidades indígenas por megaproyectos extractivos en la República Federativa del Brasil, la República de Colombia, la República del Perú y los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

President: María Fernanda Domínguez Hereida

A) Actions to prevent the recruitment of young people in the Central African Sahel region into organized crime, addressing the social roots of recruitment into gangs, cartels, and extremist networks.

B) Strategies to limit radicalization within prison systems in the Southern Philippines and the lack of effective programs to prevent criminal recidivism.

Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America

President: Jacobo Nicolas Palafox Valdes

A) Strengthening nuclear security protocols in Latin America and the Caribbean in response to natural disasters.

B) Addressing the risks of illicit nuclear material trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean.

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ORGANISMS

General Subsecretary: Patrick Eduardo Cunillé Paniagua

Supervisor of Coordination: Arantza Estrada Ríos

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

Presidente: Alexandra Sofía Reyes Galindo

A) Medidas para frenar la trata de personas en África Occidental, con énfasis en los matrimonios infantiles forzados.

B) Acciones para contrarrestar la represión estatal en Irán, ocasionada por la concentración del poder en manos del líder supremo y la Guardia Revolucionaria.

Organización Internacional de la Policía

Presidente: Diego Alejandro Salazar Náfate

A) Medidas para frenar el empleo de criptomonedas en el tráfico ilícito de especies protegidas, entre la República de Camerún, los Emiratos Árabes Unidos y la República Federal de Alemania.

B) Medidas para erradicar las redes de trata de menores encubiertas como adopciones internacionales a través de la manipulación de procedimientos legales y la adulteración de

credenciales de identificación entre la República Federal de Nigeria, los Emiratos Árabes Unidos y el Reino de los Países Bajos.

International Committee of the Red Cross

President: Emilio Antonio Contreras Salas

A) Measures to protect and assist the civil population and detained persons affected by the armed conflict between the State of Israel and Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip.

B) Measures to prevent and address violations of human rights in the armed conflict in the Republic of Sudan, with emphasis on the protection of civilians.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

President: Marian Robles Ortiz

Topic A) Actions to ensure the management of humanitarian consequences taking place in the Republic of Yemen as a result of its domestic conflict and the military intervention of international actors.

Topic B) Strategies to counter the human rights violations happening in Port au Prince and its surrounding areas as a result of gang violence and abuse from government authorities.

Organización del Tratado Atlántico Norte

Presidente: Fausto Moreno Hurtado

A) Medidas para contrarrestar las tensiones diplomáticas causadas en Europa del Este ante la adición de la República de Finlandia y el Reino de Suecia a la OTAN, con enfoque en el conflicto de la Federación Rusa y la República de Ucrania.

B) Medidas para enfrentar la crisis migratoria localizada en la frontera sureste de Europa, con énfasis en la ruta Mediterránea Oriental hacia la República Helénica, causada por conflictos internos localizados en el Medio Oriente con enfoque en el grupo Partido de los Trabajadores del Kurdistan (PKK) en la República Turquía.

World Bank

President: Javier Gil Rodríguez

A) Actions to limit the expansion of the agricultural frontier and large-scale deforestation in South America, with an emphasis on affected groups in vulnerable regions such as the Amazon and Gran Chaco.

B) Measures to eradicate the severe precarity of physical and economic resources in the conflict between the State of Palestine and the State of Israel, with specific attention to vulnerable citizens located in the Gaza Strip.

Consejo de Seguridad

Presidente: Emiliano Bautista Soza

A) Estrategias para prevenir el resurgimiento de la violencia armada entre el Estado de Israel y los grupos armados palestinos en Gaza y Cisjordania, al tiempo que se promueve la estabilidad a largo plazo en la región.

B) Acciones para detener el avance del programa nuclear de Corea del Norte, poniendo especial atención en sus pruebas de misiles y las amenazas que representa para la estabilidad de Asia Oriental.

International Atomic Energy Agency

President: Ana Mercado Garduño

A) Measures to prevent illicit trafficking of radioactive materials through unstable border regions, focusing on the region of Central Asia.

B) Actions to mitigate environmental and security risks of nuclear facilities in active and post-conflict zones centered on Ukraine and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Caribbean Court of Justice

President: Miguel Ángel Pérez Rodríguez

A) Appeal by Nevis Betancourt against conviction on depriving Jose Castellanos of his life in Belizean Appeal (Nevis Betancourt v The King).

B) Proceeding by Shanique Myrie against the State of Barbados on violation of human rights and free movement rights under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (Shanique Myrie v The State of Barbados).

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

Querido lector,

Hace seis años participé en mi primer TECMUN como jueza en la “International Court of Justice”. Fue un modelo lleno de retos, no solo porque fue el primer TECMUN en línea, sino también porque me costaba trabajo encontrar el valor para hablar frente a delegados más experimentados que yo. Recuerdo haber pasado los tres días escondida detrás de cámara, hablando solo cuando la mesa me lo pedía. Sin embargo, hubo un momento que cambió todo: ver al *Agent Defense* me inspiró de una forma que jamás olvidaré. Fue entonces cuando supe que yo también quería estar ahí, convertirme en alguien capaz de alzar la voz y generar un cambio. No fue hasta mi segundo modelo cuando descubrí mi verdadero potencial. Representaba a la República de Colombia en UNICEF, y fue ahí cuando me cuestioné por qué debía sentir miedo de expresar mi opinión ante temas que merecen ser escuchados. Ese año me prometí dejar de dudar de mí misma y participar con la convicción de que mi voz también tenía valor. Fue entonces cuando comprendí que participar en TECMUN no era solo debatir, sino crecer, aprender y atreverse a salir de la zona de confort. Ese modelo marcó el inicio de mi evolución personal.

Años después, decidí cerrar este camino en el mismo lugar donde todo comenzó: en una corte. Entré a la “Caribbean Court of Justice” como *Agent Defense* del Estado de Barbados. Durante la ceremonia de clausura, supe que lo había logrado: ya era un agente de cambio. Miré al Alto Secretariado y comprendí que ese era mi destino, mi sueño, mi objetivo. Darle la bienvenida a nuevas generaciones de agentes dispuestos a transformar el mundo desde las salas de debate. Te comparto una parte de mi historia en TECMUN porque, así como yo, probablemente tú estás en búsqueda de crecer, de descubrir tu voz o de alcanzar nuevos objetivos. No importa el punto en el que te encuentres, lo importante es que sigas avanzando y nunca dejes de creer en ti.

Nunca calles ante lo que te parezca injusto. Participa, opina y actúa, porque el poder del cambio está en las decisiones que tomas y también en las que decides no tomar. Infórmate, porque cultivar tu mente te permitirá comprenderte y comprender al prójimo. Ayuda a quien más lo necesite, porque tienes privilegios que muchas personas en el mundo no tienen, y usarlos para servir a otros es una de las formas más nobles de liderazgo. Haz las cosas con pasión, con amor y con propósito, todos los días, por ti y para ti. Inspírate e inspira a los demás, porque nunca sabes si tus palabras o tus actos pueden ser el impulso que alguien necesita para creer en sí mismo. Aprovecha que hoy estás aquí. Tienes la oportunidad de expandir tus límites, de aprender, de enseñar y de motivar a quienes te rodean. Recuerda que no estás solo: a tu alrededor hay una red de apoyo que confía en ti y que te acompañará en cada paso. Sé esa persona que siempre quisiste encontrar para que te guiara en tu proceso de aprendizaje, y sobre todo, confía en ti, porque eres capaz de lograr todo lo que te propongas.

Abril Valdés Calva
Secretaria General para el
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“No hay presión cuando haces lo que realmente amas”

-Neymar Jr.

Dear participant,

Today I speak to you from the heart of a 12-year-old Mauro, who came to his first model and wants to tell you that you are about to experience one of the most beautiful things — TECMUN. A model to which we have poured our soul, heart, and life. I ask you to please come and enjoy it. I don't know if you're here because you had to or because you wanted to, but the only thing I want to say is thank you — thank you for being part of this great model, because without you, this project wouldn't be possible. Thank you for getting involved in topics that maybe others find irrelevant, but in which you see a solution.

Many people think that being in TECMUN is something insignificant, but the truth is that you are deeply engaging with issues that are real global challenges today. I want to tell you that this experience will not only give you knowledge, but it will also open doors to future and amazing academic opportunities. Moreover, you'll meet incredible people who share your same academic interests — or even new ideas that might encourage you to step out of your bubble and see the world and things from a more realistic perspective. Lastly, I want to invite you to make the most of your time at TECMUN, because it is a unique experience that truly changes you as a person and helps you grow. Be open to change and new ideas, remembering how your past self once dreamed of creating a big change — both within yourself and in leaving a small mark on the hearts of those who dare to step out of their comfort zones and routines. Now it's your turn: laugh, cry, enjoy, learn, and above all, never let others limit your ability to create.

A handwritten signature in black ink, slanted upwards to the right. The name 'MAURO' is written in a stylized, cursive font, and 'CG' is written below it.

Mauro Carillo Gálvez
Subsecretary of General Coordination for the
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“Everything becomes a little different as soon as it is spoken out loud.”

– Hermann Hesse

Delegate, ambassador, minister, judge, or agent. Whoever is behind the position you will assume during these three days. Thank you for being here, whether by obligation or by choice; thank you for making the effort to discuss global issues and, above all, thank you for stepping outside your comfort zone to see the world more objectively, free from the privilege we sometimes fail to recognize. Through this model, you'll discover a lot about the world and about yourself. You might not realize it, but you'll emerge a different person, a better person. From my perspective, many years later, each model is something to be treasured. There may be problems, arguments, laughter, or tears, but each one teaches you something in its own way. This model falls to me to view it from the side that seems the most distant, the one least involved in the discussions, but in a way, the one that sees the most of what happens in the twenty-seven committees of this edition. I confess that throughout this experience, I've missed being a delegate, a member of the chair, or a president, but looking back at the person who entered TECMUN in their first semester wanting to be the subsecretary for the general assembly, I realize that I'm exactly where I once wanted to be. Even if it's difficult, tedious, or tiring, that's what Model United Nations teaches you: to grow, to face challenges, and to pursue your dreams. I hope this model treats both you and me in the best way possible and leaves us with one of the many enriching experiences we have yet to live and are already living. Learn, have fun, and don't forget about yourself or others while you're doing it.



Andrea Abigail Salazar López

Subsecretary of the General Assembly for the
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“You are the light. It’s not on you, it’s in you.”

-Tyler, The Creator

Dear delegate,

I want to congratulate you on recognizing the injustices, inequalities, and challenges that the world faces nowadays. I truly believe that it is essential for our future to start making a difference in a world full of “predictable” endings. It’s our mission to keep working on making our future bright and our world a better place. Being in TECMUN is more than just debating and having a posture; it is being passionate about making a change in people’s lives, working for what is fair, and becoming someone inspiring.

Referring to the quote I chose, I’d like to let you know that you are unique. You don’t need to be noticed to be exactly who you are. You don’t need popularity and watchers to start and step out of your comfort zone, to change your life and other people. We all have passions and a spirit inside us, and the way we outshine them is the way we are perceived. Every change in the world started with someone brave enough to do things differently. That’s why I encourage you to fall in love with what you believe, fill yourself with knowledge, and be crazy passionate about your dreams. Don’t worry about what other people think; be confident and trust the process.

In this TECMUN I hope you enjoy all the work done by the high secretariat and our chair, meet new people that inspire you, develop and reinforce skills that will be useful for your daily life, and the most important, I hope you leave as someone memorable that had an impact on your fellows. Change begins with young minds. Became part of the solution.

María Fernanda López Islas

President of the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund for the
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Background

Founded in 1946 by the General Assembly, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) works with 190 countries and territories around the world, intending to help children and young people whose lives or futures are at risk. It is pledged to guarantee safety and protection to disadvantaged minors, including victims of war, disasters, all kinds of exploitation and violence, and extreme poverty. Its mission is to protect children's rights, to help them reach their basic needs, and enhance their prospects to reach their full potential; this by providing maternal and child healthcare, ensuring safe drinking water and sanitation, protecting children from violence and abuse, keeping them safe from climate change and disease, and promoting child health, nutrition and HIV prevention.

Faculties

For the purpose of safeguarding childhoods and protecting their futures the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is allowed to:

- Work with governments to mobilize political will and resources (particularly in developing countries), ensure a “first call for children”, and to build their capacity to formulate policies and deliver services for children and their families;
- Develop, support, and promote scholarships, politics, and campaigns that provide access to inclusive and quality education;
- Promote equal rights for women throughout its country programmes and support their full participation in political, social, and economic development within their communities;
- Work and encourage governments to legislate on child protection through promotion;

- Make its facilities available to partners to alleviate the suffering of children and those who provide care, in coordination with the United Nations and with the assistance of humanitarian agencies.

Topic A

Actions to strengthen national legislation to prevent child labor in the informal textile industry in urban centers of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, where regulatory systems remain weak and exploitative practices are common

By: María Fernanda López Islas ,Carmen Alejandra Casas Butrón y Diego Alberto Hurtado Ramos

Introduction

Nowadays, the People's Republic of Bangladesh persists as one of the countries that has failed to eradicate child labor, particularly in the informal textile industry. The majority of the children are forced to work to help their families due to intergenerational poverty. Children from rural areas travel to urban areas, since it is easier to find financially modest employment and send money back to their villages. Most of the minors are illegally employed in Ready-Made Garments (RMG) factories, which are one of the most important industries for the country. Regardless of the industry's significant contribution to the nation's economy, the policies against exploitative practices and weak regulations have provided the perfect conditions for child labor to persist.

“According to the provisional report from the latest National Child Labour Survey conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 1.78 million children were in child labour across various sectors, 1.07 million of whom were engaged in hazardous child labour” (University of Nottingham, s.f.). About 20% of the children work for the exporting market, while the remaining 80% are employed through subcontracted or mixed-contract factories in the informal sector. These establishments tend to fall outside of the inspections, because of the weak protective laws and infrequent inspections, making them ideal spots for abusive treatment. Here, children are exposed to hazards, low wages, unhealthy conditions, etc.

Ready-Made Garments industry and its significance in the nation's economy

The People's Republic of Bangladesh is one of the leading countries in the production and provision of affordable clothes. Acting as the principal driver of foreign exchange, employment opportunities, and responsible for more than 80% of the People's Republic of Bangladesh's export earnings. “The main destinations of Bangladesh's RMG exports are the USA, Germany, UK, Spain, France, Italy, Netherlands, Canada, and Belgium” (External

Economics Wing Research Department Bangladesh Bank, 2023). The RMG industry makes a substantial contribution of about 10-12% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), making it vital for the nation's economy. This sector has played a crucial role in reducing poverty by employing approximately 4.4 million people, primarily women.

Despite the sector's significance, it is currently facing economic pressures, which necessitate measures and strategies to maintain its competitiveness and economic viability. Strategies have been implemented with the aim of cost-cutting. Lean manufacturing principles help to minimize waste and defective products, lower operational costs, and enhance productivity. Financing automation and manufacturing machines and technology lowers manual dependency and increases efficiency. Using sustainable materials is essential for the industry's future environmental impact. And last but not least, transitioning to renewable energies provides sustainable power solutions.

The RMG sector still faces criticism regarding its working conditions, child labor, and workplace safety. Various reports and statistics, such as those in the International Labor Organization and Human Rights Watch, have shown that the sector's dependence on informal workers and forced labor remains unnoticed. Regardless of the effort to make this industry sustainable, ethical, and with the right labor standards, several accidents have captured greater industry attention to workers' well-being, such as the Rana Plaza Tragedy, in which the commercial complex collapsed, leaving 2500 injured workers and 1100 killed (University of Nottingham, n.d). Also, the COVID-19 pandemic was a setback for the sector, since irresponsible purchase practices increased the workers' pressure, causing layoffs and job losses.

Main causes of child labor in the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Many children participate in helping their parents at home, assisting them at work, or working to earn a bit of money during the school break. This is considered something

positive since it helps children and adolescents develop skills and helps them to be productive in their future adulthood. The main factor that pushes children to work is poverty. Due to unemployment and low income, parents have no choice rather than send their children to work to have additional financial support.

According to UNICEF (2020):

“...46% of working children in Bangladesh live below the poverty line, with one quarter living in extreme poverty. Living in poor and extremely poor households, these children are deprived of the basic needs – food, shelter, medical care, sanitation facilities, and drinking water.”

Some other factors influence child labor, such as education, which is free until eighth grade (13-14 years), but it still becomes a cost to poor families. Most of the children do not finish primary school, and only 28.67% of working children study. For many of them, it is impossible to afford the education costs, which commonly include transportation, uniforms, exams, and tuition fees. Parents focus on short-term earning money rather than promising opportunities, not considering education as something essential. Demography considerably impacts child labor in the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. Since most of the country’s population lives in rural areas, they work in agriculture, livestock¹, and fishing. “Agriculture is the most important economic sector of Bangladesh, which provides workplaces for more than 70% of Bangladesh’s population.”(World Bank, 2016). Consequently, families' households depend on the income coming from agriculture, prompting children to be part of the labor in rural areas, including Rangpur, Bogra, and Barisal.

Consequences of child labor in the Ready-Made Garments industry in the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

¹ **Livestock:** animals and birds that are kept on a farm, such as cows, sheep, or chickens. (Cambridge, 2025).

Consequences involving child labor, especially in the People's Republic of Bangladesh, can go from individual suffering to those who affect the economy and society. Children often work in hazardous conditions, handling heavy machinery or toxic chemicals without proper safety equipment, which can lead to death, illness, or injury. Some of the main health problems children and adolescents often face are: pesticide poisoning, growth deficiencies (in which they tend to be lighter and shorter than other children), physical injuries or mutilations due to badly maintained machinery, and long-term health problems, such as respiratory problems, *asbestosis*², cancer, and chronic fatigue. Psychologically, many child workers experience verbal abuse, threats, and even physical violence, with girls being especially vulnerable to harassment.

Child labor also has a social and economic impact on the nation. Children who grow up working instead of studying are more likely to remain in poverty into adulthood, continuing a cycle of financial hardship. Consequently, it makes it almost impossible to gain successful employment during adulthood. "Child labour has a very high human cost and seriously hinders poverty reduction and national development, not only for the children but for the whole population." (International Labor Organization, 2015). Brands that source from factories that use child labor risk public backlash and legal consequences, which can lead to canceled contracts and economic losses for the country, which may have a significant impact on its competitiveness.

Policy measures and strategies to eradicate child labor in the People's Republic of Bangladesh

The government has certain policies that try to prevent and eradicate child labor. The Bangladesh Labor Act (2006), is the main document that amends and reinforces laws related

² **Asbestosis**: a serious medical condition caused by breathing threads of asbestos into the lungs. (Cambridge, 2025)

to employment, workers, minimum wages, working, health, welfare, and safety conditions. Here, there are stipulated restrictions for child employment, like prohibiting employment that includes dangerous operations, the minimum age children can be employed, working hours, wages, etc. The law has a low tariff fine on the violation of child labor laws; in addition, the process needs to go through courts, making this procedure unaffordable and inaccessible to the majority of children.

The Bangladesh Department of Inspections for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) has played a vital role in combating child labor. In 2022-2023, DIFE created and implemented a plan in the Keraniganj sub-district in Dhaka to stop child labor. DIFE removed 12,400 children into a protected intervention. Additionally, the government created a program focused on older children who didn't have the chance of quality education due to a lack of teachers, called "UNICEF's Myanmar curriculum pilot". The program, based on Bruma's national education system, targeted 300,000 Rohingya children for the 2023-2024 academic year. The government managed a 24-hour hotline called "Child Helpline 1098". In 2022-2023, the helpline received 10,000 reports related to child abuse, 5,000 received legal assistance, and 2,000 received financial and legal assistance to parents.

Measures the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund has taken against child labor in the People's Republic of Bangladesh

The main objective of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is to help children and young people whose lives and futures are at risk. Therefore, with the participation of other organizations such as the Economic Research Organization (ERG), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the National Child Labor Survey (NCLS), have implemented data, studies, qualitative and quantitative analysis, reports, and surveys that warn and point out the progress of child labor. To inform, expand protections, and guide interventions, driven by advocacy of the children's rights. One clear

example is when UNICEF joined the ILO to conduct research, which explains the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic pushed many Bangladeshi children to work. “According to the brief, COVID-19 could result in a rise in poverty and therefore to an increase in child labour as households use every available means to survive.” (UNICEF, 2020)

UNICEF also works with governments for digital monitoring and policy reform to enforce children’s rights and labor protection. A clear example is the way UNICEF supports the DIFE and the digital platform LIMA that detects and prevents child labor in the People’s Republic of Bangladesh’s main industries. Last but not least, UNICEF, the government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, and its collaborators have multi-purpose centers, where skills, coaching, psychological support, and vocational training are provided. A concrete example is when UNICEF, “With funding support from the European Union, the Ministry of Social Welfare recruits over 1,200 additional social workers for Child Protection Services, bringing the total number to over 4,000.” (UNICEF, 2024). This proposal emphasizes the well-being of children and families across the nation. As well as calling on the People’s Republic of Bangladesh’s government to prioritize child protection workforce to successfully support vulnerable children population.

Child labor in the People’s Republic of Bangladesh’s garment industry

Above all, the consequences of child labor in the People’s Republic of Bangladesh are not good. Children lost opportunities for study, adulthood, well-paid employment, and life quality. It also facilitates the creation and maintenance of supply chains via *subcontracted factories*³, often invisible to brands. The “secret” exploitation and the unsupervised factories weaken the efforts to guarantee ethical and fair labor, which, at the same time, maintains poverty cycles across the generations.

³ **subcontracted factories:** If one firm subcontracts part of its work to another firm, it pays the other firm to do part of the work that it has been employed to do. (Collins, 2025).

Child labor in the RMG industry in the People's Republic of Bangladesh isn't just a national issue. More countries must recognize the urgency of the problem. Despite the strategies taken and the efforts made, thousands of children still face violations of their rights. Being the People's Republic of Bangladesh, one of the main exporters of the RMG industry, global consumers and brands are directly involved in a far-ethical supply chain. Without international monitoring and relevance, the efforts may be insufficient. For example, the United States of America has proposed an initiative, the EU's Due Diligence Directive, and the Bangladesh Accord. The EU's Due Diligence Directive focuses on preventing child labor and guaranteeing human rights, while the other side Bangladesh Accord, emphasizes improving working conditions. Responding to measures like this, we can globally protect vulnerable children and promote a sustainable and ethical RMG industry.

The United States of America is actively helping to combat the problem. The Child Labor Improvements in Bangladesh (CLIMB) project is a clear example of the initiatives the United States of America have proposed to detect and combat forced child labor in the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The strategy involves identifying and documenting timely information about working conditions and forced child labor in the dried fish sector, advocating and raising awareness for the protection of children of forced child labor, and enabling access to emergency services grievance mechanisms and livelihood services for victims of labor exploitation in the dried fish sector. As a result "The project built the capacity of its five partner civil society organizations to counter child labor and forced child labor." (U.S. Department of Labor, n.d), the advocacy campaigns contribute to the mobilization of National Child Labour Welfare Council and the National Plan of Action, helped creating the Information Service Center, etc.

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Topic B

Addressing the rise in mental health issues among children and adolescents following the COVID-19 pandemic with Significance in the Republic of India

By: María Fernanda López Islas ,Carmen Alejandra Casas Butrón y Diego Alberto Hurtado Ramos

Introduction

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the world encountered complex challenges, including isolation and fear. The pandemic disrupted minors' routine and deprived them of schooling, which provided children and adolescents with the perfect opportunity to increase their internet access and screen time. The challenges parents dealt with, similar to uncertainty, query, and grief, disrupted their ability to calm their children's anxieties and stress. These effects affected other dimensions of children's daily life, such as education, safety, and intensified the risk of getting depression, anxiety, and sleeping disorders.

Children in India faced a difficult time living through the dangers and restrictions imposed because of the pandemic. *“The survey findings, which are previewed in The State of the World's Children 2021, also found that around 14 percent of 15 to 24-year-olds in India, or 1 in 7, reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things.”* (UNICEF, 2021). Being the Republic of India, one of the largest countries in the world, with a youth population, the consequences are far-reaching. The implications affect not only the individual well-being, but also the nation's economic and social future.

Children's mental health before the COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of India

Before the lockdown, children and adolescents in the Republic of India suffered from mental health conditions without a remarkable need and investment in addressing them. *“According to the Indian Journal of Psychiatry in 2019, even before the pandemic, at least 50 million children in India were affected with mental health issues; 80 – 90 per cent have not sought support.”* (UNICEF, 2021). Young people with mental disorders were uncertain about looking for help or treatment, which resulted in undiagnosed disorders. Previous to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2015, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported that the Republic of India's suicide rate was 10.6/100,000 population, making the country one of the highest

rates in the world. The ages of 15-24 have the highest suicide rates in the Republic of India, accounting for 35% recorded suicides.

...the National Mental Health Survey 2016 found that teenagers had a 7.3% prevalence of illness, distributed equally across boys and girls. However, it was greater in metropolitan areas, and the prevalence of anxiety issues was 3.6%, with depression-related conditions at 0.8% (National Library of Medicine, 2024).

These illnesses also include hyperactivity, suicidality, and challenges in peer interaction. In 2017, the Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA) was introduced into Indian legislation to provide a comprehensive approach to mental health and treatment. The (MHCA) aims to ensure that everyone, including children, has access to mental health services that are of good quality and affordable. Post COVID-19, the (MCHA) promotes the integration of mental health in school-based activities, as well as encourages that children must not be denied access to any kind of treatment, no matter their age, gender, or religion.

Their incapacity to trust others and seek help was due to negative experiences at home, such as *stigma*⁴ and *superstition*⁵. Stigma manifests in different ways; the most common ones include minimizing other people's feelings, with them being called "lazy", "disobedient", or using phrases such as "you have bad karma". A clear example is a 19-year-old boy who was studying engineering. He posted that he was feeling down and disagreed with a social media policy about cyber-trolling. For sharing this, he was attacked because of his appearance, status, and his opinions. After this, he even considered dropping out of school, but hopefully, he reached out for help. The failure in addressing this type of disorder led to implications in the individual's well-being, the ability to have a satisfying

⁴ **Stigma:** a strong feeling of disapproval that most people in a society have about something, especially when this is unfair. (Cambridge, 2025).

⁵ **Superstition:** belief that is not based on human reason or scientific knowledge, but is connected with old ideas about magic, etc. (Cambridge, 2025).

adult life, and physical health. The prevalence of these illnesses included suicide, emotional, behavioral, and psychiatric issues. The Republic of India dealt with a gap between needs and mental health services, because most of the services were focused on hospitals, leaving aside mental health.

COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of India

Around March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Since then, many countries implemented lockdowns and safety measures to protect their population, closing schools, businesses, and requiring people to stay at home. Studies such as the ones in The Lancet Psychiatry showed that the mental health symptoms peaked at the start of the lockdown and “decreased” when the lockdown seemed to be lifted. Data showed that the beginning of the pandemic and the second wave led to high levels of depression. As the health crisis rose, social media played an essential role. Information overload and fake news started to float on social media of which were unverified, leading vulnerable minors to anxiety, irritability, low self-esteem, emotional eating, *sexting*⁶, dependence on social media and videogames, mood swings, and isolation.

Through the pandemic, children have had limited access to support from social services due to lockdown measures. The disruption to routines, education, recreation, as well as concern for family income and health, is leaving many young people feeling afraid, angry, and concerned for their future. (UNICEF, 2021).

As part of the safety measures, children's access to schooling was disrupted, leaving many of them unable to continue their education. This impacted their aspirations and future careers, leading them to feel depressed and angry. While safety measures such as school disruption

⁶ **Sexting:** the activity of sending text messages that are about sex or intended to sexually excite someone. (Cambridge, 2025).

reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19, lack of funding and other considerable barriers prevent many children from accessing the support they need.

Consequences of mental health after the COVID-19 pandemic

From a healthcare perspective, the COVID-19 pandemic did more than increase the need for physical treatment; it also triggered a widespread mental health emergency affecting both patients and medical professionals. A study from Harvard Medical School found that over half of healthcare workers, including nurses, doctors, and support staff, experienced *burnout*⁷ during the crisis, with many considering leaving their jobs due to overwhelming workloads and emotional fatigue. This negatively impacted the quality of care and limited access to mental health services, particularly in low-income countries, such as the Republic of India. Although telehealth services expanded access to care, many individuals continued to face obstacles such as high costs, social stigma, and limited digital access. These challenges revealed the critical need to strengthen mental health infrastructure and ensure broader, more equitable support systems across society.

The pandemic also had economic consequences. Vulnerable populations lost their jobs, faced reduced income, and financial uncertainty, which became a major source of stress for millions of families. Many parents were forced to take on multiple jobs, reduce their spending on basic needs, or rely on government assistance that was often late or insufficient. The constant worry about rent, food, and medical expenses created a sense of instability that affected not only adults but also the children and adolescents living in those homes. In some cases, the emotional burden of financial stress led to increased substance use, domestic conflict, and even suicidal thoughts. Access to mental health services, which were already

⁷ **Burnout:** extreme tiredness or mental or physical illness caused by working too hard or trying to do too much. (Cambridge, 2025).

underfunded before the pandemic, became even more difficult due to high demand, financial obstacles, and a shortage of providers.

During lockdowns and periods of isolation, many children and teenagers experienced increased levels of loneliness, anxiety, and depression. For example, students described quarantine as causing "severe insomnia and psychological stress, claustrophobia, constant fear, feelings of depression, and loneliness" (Pew Research Center, 2023). The disruption of daily routines and social networks weakened trust in institutions, schools, and classmates, crucial for emotional development. As a result, the pandemic not only impacted physical health but also

profoundly altered the way people relate to one another and maintain emotional well-being, making social recovery a slow process.

Measures taken to address mental health issues among children in the Republic of India

The Republic of India had "a 50% increase in the calls received on the helpline for children since the beginning of the lockdown" (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, 2021). Therefore, in 2020, they launched the *School Health and Wellness Programme*, which had the objective of training teachers to promote health and disease prevention, by having one hour every week of interactive activities. Additionally, they launched another program called the *National Tele Mental Health Program*, this program was designed to provide free 24/7 mental health support via telephone. The point of this program is to reach all the people of the Republic of India, including children and adolescents.

The *Samvedna Tele-Counselling* focused on the mental health of children who were affected by trauma, abuse, distress, or isolation during the lockdown, including rural and urban areas. The Manodarpan is another initiative proposed by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the government of the Republic of India. Its target is to provide psychological

support for the mental health and well-being of students during COVID, via a website. The Manodarpan strategies extended their support way after the pandemic.

Despite the efforts, the crisis persists. Mental health is not a priority; statistics prove that only 1% of India's health budget is intended for mental health. This gravely restricts children and adolescents' access to quality mental health services.

“Previous evaluations of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) have reported the cause of underutilisation as inconsistencies or delays in transfer of funds by the union government, along with a lack of coordination between different directorates of the state health departments. In many parts of the country, the DMHP is not fully functional, hence persons with mental illness rely on either private mental health services, which are expensive, or travel distances to avail of services at the district or tertiary hospitals.” (Plos, 2023).

Regardless of the legal framework, its implementation and low priority reflected in low budget and inconsistencies, increases the treatment void for mental health and weakness in existing policies. As well as a lack of mental health infrastructure and limited awareness.

UNICEF's efforts to address rising mental health issues among children and adolescents in the Republic of India after the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF played a vital role during the pandemic, implementing strategies to help parents and minors during such a difficult time. Some examples included the diffusion of information about the disease and how to prevent it, setting in motion initiatives that helped children to continue to learn due to the school closures, and training. This training was non-physical; it was focused on helping to recognize mental health issues and trauma, and provide first-aid skills for emotional support and crisis.

“...over 8,000 functionaries from Childline, civil society networks, district child protection units, child care institutions, and one-stop centres functionaries to provide psychosocial first aid. Approximately 446,180 children, adolescents, and their parents/caregivers were reached in 17 states with mental health and psychosocial support” (DT Next, 2021)

It also continued government advocacy to invest in and improve attention regarding children’s mental health.

Currently, UNICEF calls on governments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to promote mental health for children, caregivers, and teenagers. Principally asking for inversion, care, and promotion. It also provides data and analytics about the consequences on children’s psychological health post-pandemic, as well as providing guides for parents, to reinforce emotional resilience and to support positive parenting techniques. In addition, UNICEF is helping to de-stigmatize mental disorders by creating campaigns such as Noni Johar in Chhattisgarh, training teachers and school counselors, and distributing mental health handbooks to families in their regional language.

This problem extends beyond national concerns affecting the Republic of India socially and economically. Therefore, the United States of America collaborates with UNICEF in the Mental Health in International Development and Humanitarian Settings Act (MINDS Act), which provides mental health and psychological assistance in foreign countries, including labor in the Republic of India. It also backs up a coalition made up of the United States of America companies, to which sources are directed for awareness campaigns that support adolescents’ mental health worldwide.

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XXXIII TECMUN Jr.
Glossary of Forbidden Words

Forbidden Words

Defined by the United Nations, are non diplomatic terms participants must avoid to mention during their speeches on the debate and in the writing of resolution projects

Forbidden Words	Permitted equivalents
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay ⁸	Member of the LGBTIQ+ community
War ⁹	Belic conflict
Rape	Sexual abuse
Terrorist	Extremist
Kill or murder	Deprive someone of their life
Death	Casualties
Assassination	Homicide
Army	Military forces
Money	Economic resources
Poor	Lack of resources
Okay	Yes or agree
Black ¹⁰	Afrodescendant

⁸ The word Gay is replaced by a more inclusive term, recognizing that not all people within the LGBTIQ+ community identify in the same way.

⁹ The word War can be used in order to refer to historical contexts, such as the Cold War, the First World War, etc. It can only be used in the Security Council to refer to armed conflicts.

¹⁰ The word Black, in reference to ethnicity, is not prohibited but it is recommended to limit its use and refer to this sector as a dark-skinned person or afrodescendant as the case may be.

XXXIII TECMUN Jr.
Glossary for Resolution Projects

Preambulatory Phrases

Preambulatory Phrases are used at the beginning of every Resolution Paper in order to give context about the resolutions made for the topic. Preambulatory Phrases must be written in italics followed by a sentence that gives said context. For each Resolution Paper there must be five sentences beginning with a Preambulatory Phrase.

Affirming	Desiring	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Expecting	Noting further
Bearing in mind	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully aware	Realizing
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recalling
Convinced	Further recalling	Recognizing
Declaring	Guided by	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Taking into consideration
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply regretting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming

XXXIII TECMUN Jr.
Glossary for Resolution Projects

Operative Clauses

Operative Clauses are used at the beginning of every resolution within the Resolution Paper on the debated topic. They must be written in italics and bold.

Accepts	Endorses	Notes
Affirms	Draws the attentions	Proclaims
Approves	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Encourages	Recommends
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Condemns	Further invites	Requests
Confirms	Further proclaims	Solemnly
Congratulates	Further reminds	Affirms
Considers	Further recommends	Strongly
Declares accordingly	Further requests	condemns
Deplores	Further resolves	Supports
Designates	Has resolved	Takes note of
		Transmits
		Trusts

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings visible.