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**United Nations
Human Rights Council
Chair report**

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Agenda 1: Ensuring safety and well-being of North Korea defectors

Agenda 2: Curbing the exploitation of children in labor force

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Agenda 1: Ensuring safety and well-being of North Korea defectors



I. Committee Introduction:

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a United Nations System inter-governmental body that is consisted of 47 member states. It is in charge of promoting various measures for protecting human rights around the world. Its goal lies in rescuing numerous infringements of human rights throughout the world. UNHRC is a subordinate body of UN General Assembly, established by the UNHRC by adopting a resolution (A/RES/60/251) on 15 March 2006, as a successor to previous UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR).

As a unique strategy of UNHRC, it established Special Procedures (Special Rapporteurs, Special Representatives, Working Groups, and Independent Experts) that is composed of individual independent human rights experts, or groups of such experts in order to effectively monitor and advise on human rights issues. They do not represent individual nations' citizenships and receive salaries, for impartial work. Either thematic or country-specific mandates to various matters are given for overall development of human rights standards.

II. Agenda Introduction:

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is located p Korean Peninsula, sharing borders with South Korea and Russia. After the Korean War, DPRK separated from the South Korean government establishing one of the few

socialist nations. Through the Korean Armistice Agreement, the two nations have met temporary peace. However, an official peace treaty never took place, and the two Korean nations are still left in a state of war and tension. DPRK is showing a blind belief towards Kim IL Sung and his descendants, and is under the domination of the Kim family's government system.

The international public criticizes DPRK's system as dictatorship, especially because human rights in North Korea are extremely infringed. Right to free speech is banned and all media is controlled by the government, and the citizens of North Korea are not free to leave the country. The defectors witness that about 150,000–200,000 people are imprisoned in many prison camps, including political criminals. The prisoners are forced to do labor, are open to physical abuses, and public executions. The citizens of North Korea are not free to get out of the country.

Due to these serious infringements of human rights, estimated 100,000-300,000 North Korean citizens have defected to nearby nations, such as Russia, China or South Korea. 76-84% of the defectors reach the northeast China before fleeing to other nations. However, China refuses to grant defectors refugee status and send them back to DPRK when caught. If defectors are sent back, they face terrible interrogation and incarceration that encompass torture and execution. So the defectors are forced to take extreme alternatives, such as contacting with brokers in the expense of being indentured.

Delegates must focus on the surrounding nations' stance, since North Korea takes defection as treason and refuses to take the international society's advice on their harassment of human rights. China's role in admitting defectors as refugees will be very important, and also the South Korean government's diplomatic policies regarding North Korea.

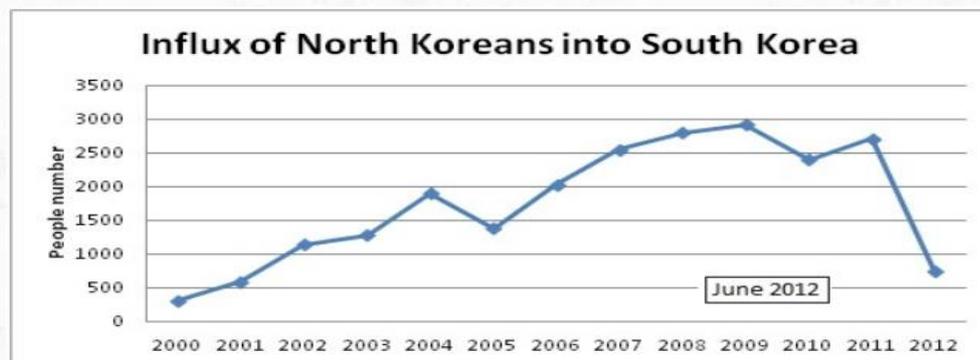
i) Definition of key terms

- North Korean defectors

Because of the banned exit of North Korea, many defectors have taken place. Since the 1990s famine in North Korea, defectors have increased. They usually cross borders by going to Jilin or Liaoning states in northeast China first, then wait for the South Korean government's rescue or flee to third nations such as Laos, Philippines, Mongolia etc.

- Safety and wellbeing

There are many conditions regarding the 'safety and wellbeing' of defectors, but in this agenda, we shall focus particularly on assuring the defectors not to be caught back to DPRK, and ensuring them a safe shelter with legal status as a refugee.



Source: Ministry of Unification, South Korea

ii) Urgency & importance of this agenda

North Korea has ranked top at most of the statistics on human rights abuses. Because the global public has continued their criticism on North Korea, we also share the responsibility in ensuring North Korean defectors safety. Especially because North Korean defectors are forced to take extreme alternatives in order to avoid executions and tortures when sent back to their nation, the international society faces dire necessity in giving a practical solution.

The problem is worse for North Korean women, because they are exposed to sexual violence very easily. There are thousands of hidden defectors in China, and about 70% of them are females, who are easily trafficked to prostitution. They are also sold to farmers as housewives at a cheap price.

III. Status Quo

The UN General Assembly has condemned North Korea since 2005 every November. But the international society's opinions vary on whether giving sanctions or assistance to DPRK will be effective in protecting the human rights in the nation.

Many organizations focus on helping the North Korean defectors, as Liberty in North Korea collects donations in order to rescue defectors crossing borders in China. Saejowi gives medical aid to defectors strange to their medical rights. The United States, although not a member state of UNHRC, passed North Korean Human Rights Acts in 2004, October and reauthorized the law in 2008 to aid North Korean defectors more efficiently. Until 2008, 63 defectors managed to gain legal refugee status in the U.S. Organizations such as Liberty in North Korea works. However, obstacles still exist because first of all North Korea rejects criticisms as protest against their systems and considers defection as treason and punishes them severely. Also, China, as North Korea's strongest ally, does not agree on the international society's urges to give legal refugee status to North Korean defectors and sends them automatically back to North Korea. South Korean government is also often accused of lack of responsibility regarding North Korean defectors' rescue. For example, they failed to save 9 North Korean defectors from forced repatriations in 2013.

IV. History

After the World War II and the Korea War (1950-1953), Korea was divided in two districts: North Korea and South Korea. Since 1990s, a lot of North Koreans started to run away from North Korea from various reasons, typically political, religious and economic reasons. The defectors usually cross the border between North Korea and China, then wait until they are accepted by South Korea. The defectors usually try to flee to China, Mongolia and Russia whose border is comparably close to North Korea. During this process, especially China which is in a believable alliance with North Korea, many defectors are sent back to North Korea by the foreign government. If the defectors are caught by Chinese soldiers, they are repatriated back to North Korea and usually face death in prison. Since 1953, about 100,000 to 300,000 North Koreans ran away from their home country. As time goes by, the number of defectors is growing

V. Stance of involved nations/organizations

i) Nations

- **South Korea**

After the Korean War, the number of North Korean defectors has increased more than 26,000. South Korea is protecting those defectors via Ministry of Unification and the “Special law on the protection of defectors from the North”. South Korea provides numerous rewards and allow defectors to resettle, find a new life in South Korea. In 2015, it was said that about 28,790 defectors are living in South Korea.

- **China**

The usual track of North Korea defectors was to cross the border in northeast China before fleeing to a third country. However, China refused to grant

North Korean defectors and consider them illegal migrants, not refugees. The most noticeable reason is the close ally with North Korea and being the economic partners of North Korea.

- **Russia**

Through China, approximately 10,000 defectors are living in the Russian Far East. After the assassination of South Korean consul Choi Duk-gun, the number of refugees has rapidly dropped to almost 100 in Russia.

- **Mongolia**

A number of North Korean defectors choose Mongolia as a country to resettle because the route is straight shorter than any other ways. Though Mongolia is trying to keep good relationships with both North Korea and South Korea, in order to keep them safe, Mongolia sends refugees to South Korea rather than supporting them to resettle in that place.

- **Europe**

Europe, known as the shelter for numerous refugees, also help North Korean defectors by the “European Alliance for Human Rights in North Korea”. North Korean communities are located in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom.

- **Japan**

North Korean defectors use Japan as a middle-step country to finally reach South Korea. There had been famous three cases of defectors to escape directly to Japan. Japan has been conducting a project called “repatriation” which supposed to protect North Koreans from kidnapping and assassination.

ii) Organizations

- **OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High commissioner for Human Rights**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is a United Nations agency that exists to protect human rights that are guaranteed under the international law. OHCHR plays the leading role on solving human rights issues and stresses the importance of human rights seen at the international levels.

- **UN Watch: United Nations Watch**

UN Watch is a non-governmental organizations who supposed to monitor the performance of the UN by the criteria given by its own Charter. UN Watch has participated in few UN activities: the Commission on Human Rights, a Panel Discussion on the UN and the Middle East, and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

- **UNOG: United Nations Office at Geneva**

United Nations Office at Geneva hosts a number of programs and funds such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). UNOG is recently participating in solving the refugee problem occurring in Europe.

- **IOM: International Organization for Migration**

The International Organization for Migration is an intergovernmental organization whose purpose is to promote humane and peaceful migration via services and advice for governments and migrants. IOM helps to ensure the humane management of migration, assisting in the search for practical

solutions to North Korean defectors' problem.

- **ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council**

The United Nations Economic and Social Council handles the coordination within the economic, social and related work of 14 UN agencies. The ECOSOC plays an important role as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues such as the economic influence in Europe Countries occurred by the influx of North Korean defectors.

VI. Future Outlook

As the problem upon the North Korean defectors mostly lies on the exact statistics of their number, prediction based on the Status of North Korean Defectors may be precise.

Criteria / Year	~1998	~2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Male	831	565	510	474	626	424	515	573	608	662	591	795	404	369	305	251	8,503
Female	116	478	632	811	1,272	960	1,513	1,981	2,195	2,252	1,811	1,911	1,098	1,145	1,092	1,025	20,292
Total	947	1,043	1,142	1,285	1,898	1,384	2,028	2,554	2,803	2,914	2,402	2,706	1,502	1,514	1,396	1,276	28,795
Female Percentage	12%	46%	55%	63%	67%	69%	75%	78%	78%	77%	75%	70%	72%	76%	78%	83%	70%

According to the *Ministry of Unification*, approximately 70% of North Koreans who defected to South Korea since 1998 are female. It is shown that the number of female defectors have rapidly increased about 23% in 2008. The percentage of defectors will definitely rise; it can halt because of the tension between two countries within one continent, but will never stop rising.

In this population booming condition, the most urgent problem impending them is employment. The government and NGOs are taking care of the defectors in South Korea, giving them enough amount of money, food, and shelter. However, like the situation occurring in Europe if they increase unmanageably,

no one can protect them from danger and starving. Accepting too many visitors without any means waiting for them can provide same situations as there North Korea.

VII. Possible solutions

First and foremost, the problem upon North Korean defectors can be eradicated only with the change within the country that does not have a parallel in the global society. Support and help from the international society is vital for the victims of abuses in North Korea, but the defection itself can be solved by the inner change made by combined strength of international society. For the change, the proposed panel of experts on accountability is needed. According to a resolution passed in the UN General Assembly, the proposed panel of experts are defined as a group of experts that discuss a future accountability mechanism for violations committed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Also the UNHRC's resolution on Burundi adopted at the December 2015 Special Session lays a big emphasis on accountability, and it includes several elements that are essential for the experts. There it says: The panel of experts' mandate should include the following

- Outlining the international and domestic options to hold perpetrators to account.
- Identifying, as needed, the legal and institutional framework that should be in place to realize justice.
- Devising a prosecutorial strategy, taking into account the possibility of an ICC referral.
- Advising on the available modes of liability under international law to hold those responsible to account.

Secondly, the support should definitely be conducted in long term. For the

constant backing of the North Korean defectors, the cooperation between NGOs and other organizations of UN is essential. They should try to conduct campaigns and slogans spreading the reality of victims in North Korea, and consider the means to solve the following issues such as double defectors.

VI. Conclusion

Delegates must keep in mind that the concerns regarding North Korean defectors is not only about migration problems, but also about economic influences and is associated with political issues. Numerous countries including South Korea, Russia, Japan, and China are trying to protect the basic human rights of North Korean defectors. These supports can be usually divided into 3 sections: financial, livelihood, and education. Because these defectors are considered as “refugees”, countries accepting the North Korean defectors have responsibility to educate them, protect their human rights, and support them to start a new life in countries. The vicious cycle of North Korean defectors can only be solved by combined strength, cooperation of the international society, and support created by organizations such as UNHRC, ECOSOC, and UN Watch.

VII. Questions to Consider

Though a lot of organizations and countries are trying to solve the problem upon the North Korean defectors’ human rights, it still didn’t reach to its end. There are few questions that the member of UNHRC should consider in order to make national stances and resolutions.

- Are there any risks to the defectors of DPRK while escaping North Korea via China considering that China is North Korea’s biggest economic supporter?
- What kind of humanitarian support is currently most urgent for the North

Korean defectors?

- How can the problem of harsh interrogation in North Korea be solved?
- In order to protect the basic human's rights of North Korean defectors, should China's repatriation be reconsidered?
- Will there be any political or economic conflicts between countries that accepted North Korean refugees?
- What kind of support should the global society provide to the North Korean defectors?
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Agenda 2: Curbing the exploitation of children in labor force



I. Committee Introduction:

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As a unique strategy of UNHRC, it established Special Procedures (Special Rapporteurs, Special Representatives, Working Groups, and Independent Experts) that is composed of individual independent human rights experts, or groups of such experts in order to effectively monitor and advise on human rights issues. They do not represent individual nations' citizenships and receive salaries, for impartial work. Either thematic or country-specific mandates to various matters are given for overall development of human rights standards.

II. Agenda introduction

Child labor has been one of the world's oldest problems since the far past. Before the 1940s, when child labor laws were brought up, many children aged 8-14 were working mainly in fields of agriculture, factories and mining. Although child labor rates have decreased favorably, it still remains as a serious

problem in the developing nations.

In 2010, sub-Saharan Africa reached a record high incident rate of child labor. Some African nations even had more than 50% of children aged 5-14 working. Therefore, the number of children exploited of labor still remains dangerously high, estimated 218 million in 2013.

Poverty is seen as the main factor of child labor. So child exploitation appears often in developing nations and rural areas. Lack of access to schooling also acts as a main factor of child labor. Children are forced to choose labor instead of education due to the desperate need of money, and because their parents judge labor as relatively worthy. Cultural reasons also exist, for example, taking girls' labor for granted because of religious reasons. Nations in war also record a high rate of child exploitation.

The elimination of child labor is a common goal that is agreed upon almost all the nations worldwide. However, still many children workers exist in the global society today. It is not a simple problem because for developing nations, human rights are often abused by exploitative employers. The regulations are loose, and access to adequate education and safe environment is not available. Because their economic status is still low and often still remains in industrial society, low paying informal economy also acts as a factor of child labor. Delegates must focus on the various interests of developing nations in particular for solving the agenda.

i) Definition of key terms

• **Child Labor**

Child labor is work that puts children under 18 in an environment which deprives children of their opportunity of schooling, or harms them physically or mentally, and psychologically. Not all child labor is detrimental, for example,

labor that helps children establish healthy economical standards under right parental protections. But in this agenda, delegates should talk about child labor that puts children in hazardous environments.

- International labor organization (ILO)

International labor organization (ILO) is an organization taking care of issues related to labor, especially international labor standards. ILO raises complaints to nations that does not follow the international labor standards but cannot put actual sanctions on countries.

- UNICEF

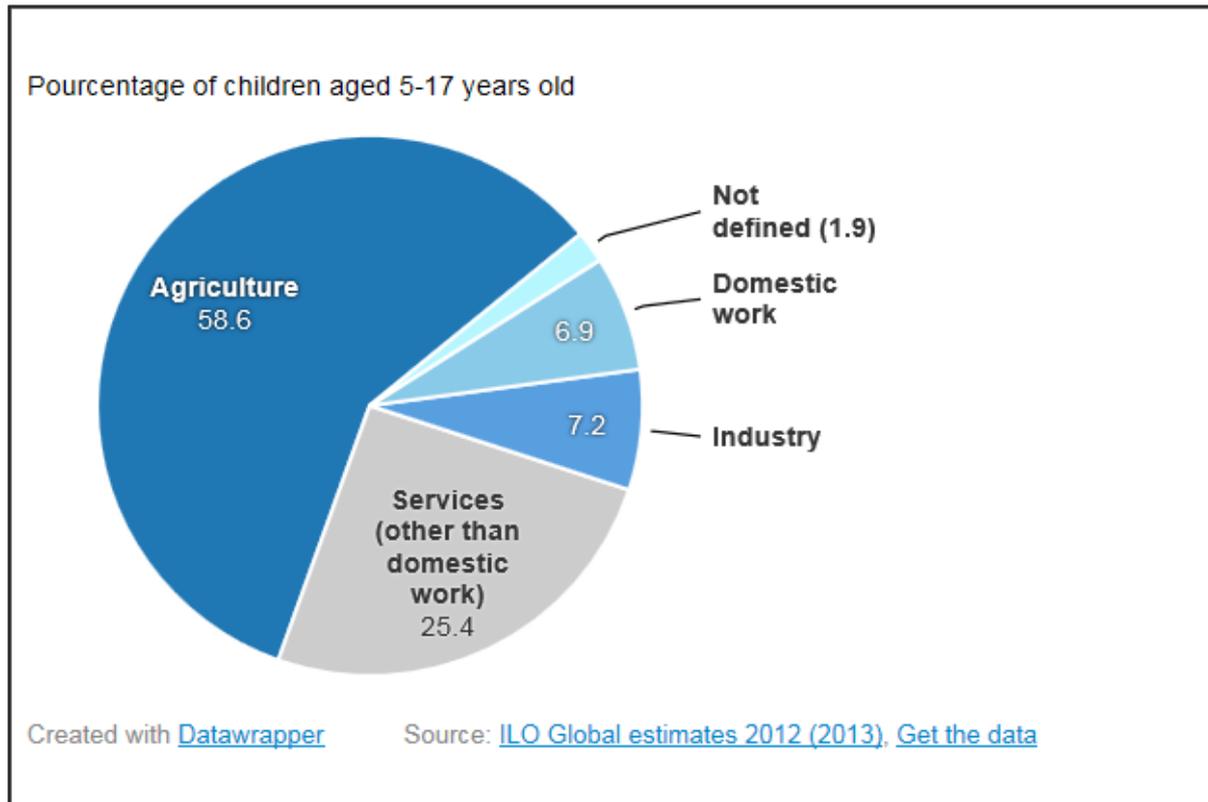
The United Nations Children's Emergency fund is a program of United Nations to give humanitarian assistance to children and mothers around the world. It relies on private donations and participation of each nation's governments.

ii) Urgency & Importance of this agenda

The most extreme types of child labor encompass crimes related to drugs, prostitution and pornographies. Children are used as tools for various crimes; mostly selling drugs, using children as the tip of the distribution chain. Children are also horribly exploited in prostitution, meaning they are sexually abused. Children are also used in armed conflicts, which is even more serious since their lives are directly at risk. Other types include child servants in domestic conditions, usually serving as slave-like workers and hazardous working environment such as risky heights and materials.

These harmful conditions are particularly critical to children because children are immature, which means that mental and physical abilities are yet to be developed. If they are kept in these hazardous environments, their lives are easy to be at risk, and they are taken away of enough opportunities to live a quality life. Children's rights must be valued, putting this agenda highly urgent matter

to solve in the committee.



III. Status Quo

It is estimated, that from 2000, are that 186 million children under fifteen years of age undertake nonhazardous work that includes fourteen hours of work per week for children over five and below twelve years of age, and up to forty-three hours of work per week for children age twelve years and above.

Since the 1940s when child rights came up as a significant part of promoting human rights, The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was passed in 1989. In 1973 Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment was passed the overall aim, as stated in Article 1, under the aim of "ensure the effective abolition of child labor." Various organizations and NGOs are taking actions all around the world.

However, just simply putting sanctions on nations is a controversial issue.

Some countries believe that putting sanctions will only leave out more extreme alternatives to children who are forced to do labor. Also access to nations under war is very difficult for private organizations to approach. Because the interests of developing nations are a complicated issue, child labor remains an unsolved problem in the global society.

IV. History

In the pre-industrial societies, child labor was an important source of labor. Because there weren't any awareness on childhood itself, children who were considered physically able to work all set off. Children in their early teens were even married, creating a family of their own. Child labor was not recognized as a social problem then.

As the Industrial Revolution broke out in Britain, child labor was even more exploited. The Victorian Era is especially infamous for its dangerous conditions. Children as young as four were sent to work as mining, crossing sweepers, shoe blacks or sellers of cheap goods. Due to the worsening polarization, increase of the gap between rich and poor, children in poverty took the responsibility of doing labor. Two thirds of 143 water-powered mills were children. Their wages were also about 10% of grown men. However, as it came to the latter half of 19th century, regulations on child labor were brought up. In 1809 and 1819 Factory Acts was passed to control the working hours of children working in factories and cotton mills. As technology developed, people began to see the necessity of skilled workers, meaning long-term benefits of educations as a solution to the long ill of society. By 1900, 1.7 million kids under 15 were exploited in U.S.A. It became over 2 million by 1910. Children mostly worked in glass factories, coal mines, textile mills and also rolled cigarettes.

Child labor still exists in 21st century, estimates ranges between 250 and 304 million, counting children aged 5–17 involved in any economic activity. If it is excluded, ILO estimated 153 million aged 5–14 in 2008. It ranges in 22% in Asia, 32% in Africa, 17% in Latin America, 1% in the US, Canada, Europe and other wealthy nations. Maplecroft Child Labour Index 2012 Survey reports 76 countries pose extreme child labor risks for globally operating companies. The ten highest risk countries in 2012, ranked were: Myanmar, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, DR Congo, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Burundi, Pakistan and Ethiopia.

V. Stance of involved nations/organizations

i) Nations

• Africa

First many children started working at a young age to help their parents run their farm. However as time goes by, they are forced into exploitative labor because of the debt and financial factors. During the harvest time the number of children working in the agriculture field increases to five million. These children are not able to go to school neither get the proper education. Because of the poverty and ignorance, the actual actions are not accepted in Africa.

• Australia

In Australia, the number of family suffering from poverty did not reach that of Africa. Because of low population, the productivity of agriculture was higher and the industrialized countries started to develop. However, the condition of child labor laws was different from state to state. Officially, only children under 15 are not allowed to go out to the work place.

- **Brazil**

Since Brazil was colonized in 1550, child labor has laid a lot of problems within and out the country. In Brazil, there is no clear definition between child and youth, which makes it hard to make the standard in banning the child labor. Also the lack of documentation made it hard to investigate the exact number of children suffering from child labor. Currently, Brazil raised the age restriction up to 14 in order to protect children with important labor laws.

- **England**

The industrial revolution occurred in England played an amazingly important role in the boom of child labor. However, children working at the factory at an early age were not forced at that time; they did it for survival. When household businesses changed to local labor markets with mass production, children started to go out for a job. Most of the children were between the ages of 10 and 14. They had been regarded as household in the late 1700s. The illiteracy has rapidly rises and the lack of education became a big problem to blame with the children labor. To solve this inhumane labor force, in 1966, the nation adopted UNGA and limited the age of children in workplaces.

- **India**

Unlike other nations spotlighted for their *past* issues of child labor, India is the nation to consider the problem at this very moment. India contains the largest number of children working illegally in factories. Many children are forced to start working at young ages in order to support family who are suffering from unemployment, poverty, and lack of education. Numerous Non-Governmental Organizations have done researches on child labor

occurring in India and determined that it constitutes 1/3 of Asia's child labor and 1/4 of the world's child labor.

ii) Organizations

- **OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High commissioner for Human Rights**

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- **IPEC: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor**

The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor is a program that the International Labor Organization has started. It aims to eliminate the child labor by strengthening national capacities to address labor problems, and creating an attention and worldwide actions to combat it.

- **UNCRC: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a human rights treaty that sets out the civil, economic and cultural rights of children. It defines

a child under the age of 18 is attained earlier under a state's own domestic legislation.

- **Save the Children**

The Save the Children is an international non-governmental organization that promotes children's rights, providing help and support to children in developing countries. Alliance members of this organization coordinate emergency-relief efforts to help to protect children from the effects of war, violence, and cruelty.

VI. Future outlook

Since the biggest cause of child labor is considered to be poverty, if the developing nations keep on being poor, child labor doesn't seem to have an end, because children are already a major working source in some industries such as soccer balls. In developed nations, more complicated forms of child labor such as using them as a fishing rod of drug deals. Having an accurate statistics of exploitation is also difficult since in countries like China, information on child labor is regulated as 'top secret'.

However, there are also positive outlooks due to increasing awareness of global community. Hopefully with economic growth in developing nations, the positive child labors that are safe and gives beneficial impacts on children may remain child labor that does not hinder the priority of education.

VII. Possible solutions

It is important for the delegates to sort out regulations that can have some significant power over the nations. However, simply giving sanctions to exploitative countries may not be enough of a solution. Giving assistance in access to school with the cooperation of various NGOs may be helpful. Developed nations should think on methods to help developing nations

economically in order to guarantee some welfare systems.

For matters related to human rights, public awareness is very important. Waking the awareness of citizens and the society would play a major role in eliminating child labor. This would be very effective in finding out hidden child labor incidents that governmental organizations are unable to approach, by turning the whole society as a rightful watchdog. Also, campaigns of big companies can be efficient. For example FIFA printing out seals on their soccer balls to assure no child labor was used, or fair trade chocolates.

VIII. Conclusion

Delegates must focus not only on the history of the country that is suffering from child labor but also in the current condition in order to provide exact aids for them. They should also consider the past actions taken by the global society over decades, and the reason why it has failed in order to strengthen the resolution for the child labor. For example, there had been numerous efforts for legislation of new laws to protect children's rights in Ethiopia, Chad and in many other countries through ILO conventions. But it couldn't reach to its original goal because of many political obstacles. This led to the confrontation between the scholars; suggesting the need for new laws placing a strict ban on any workplaces children go to, and suggesting the current international laws are enough, and the thing that they actually need is more engagement upon achieving the ultimate goals. It is true that technology and economic have developed at a blink of time and that they are vital components for the society. However, in poor countries like developing countries, working children are in danger to death. International society should strive to eradicate child labor and provide enough education and assistance.

IX. Questions to consider

As mentioned before, there have been many attempts in organizations and countries so as to eradicate the problem of child labor. The problem is, there are so many barriers such as economic circumstances, political conditions... etc. There are few questions that the members of UNHRC should consider in order to make national stances and resolutions upon the elimination of children labor.

- Are there any misunderstandings between the forced child labor and spontaneous child labor for survival in some countries?
- Do the international societies need the legislation of new laws for these children?
- What kind of laws are needed to solve the political, economic barriers in developing countries?
- Are the countries actually trying to eradicate child labor or just using them so as to develop their own technology and factories?
- What kind of organizations or tools are needed to monitor governments and associations in the process of solving the problem?
- For the developing country, improvement in technology and industries is vital. What kind of countermeasures exist?

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