

FAIRGAZE MUN



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Agenda: Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Letter from the Executive Board

We welcome all of you to the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, to be simulated at **FAIRGAZE MUN NORTH INDIA REGION**. As the Executive Board, we would like to ensure that this committee offers you all a value addition and great learning experience during the two days of the conference. As the Executive Board, we believe that our primary responsibility is to ensure that the proceedings are as flexible and productive as possible. Delegates are encouraged to research all aspects of the negotiations and deliberations that lead us towards and up for the discussion related to the topic: **“Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth”**. However, please note that we strongly urge you not to solely rely on the information you have gathered. According to the ideal method of research in a MUN, it is advisable to analyze the information and present this analysis as statements to the committee in a rational and structured manner. We expect delegates to think critically (clearly listing pros and cons, by testing and retesting your assumptions, observations, and conclusions through research and questioning) and come up with their arguments and structure, which will lead to more productive deliberation. The responsibility of exploring the depth and vastness of each topic is completely yours. Your duty as a diplomat is not just limited to finding a solution to the problem, but more importantly, to problematizing the issue and available solutions firsthand. In this context, problematizing means to critically analyze the issue at various levels such as but not limited to cultural, legal, political, etc., so that it takes the debate to a mature level. We would like you to note that this document is only intended as a guiding framework. It does not attempt or intend to cover all probable areas of discussion, and we strongly encourage delegates to go beyond the guide for further research, using this document only as a starting point. Areas of discussion not included in the guide but lying within committee mandate are more than welcome. Lastly, we would like you to remember that the Executive Board will not accept the guide itself as proof in the committee.

Proof/Evidence in Council

(Credibility of Sources)

Research is one of the most vital factors that determines your success in a Model United Nations. Many beginners struggle a lot in doing the research as there is a substantial amount of information on the internet (*we have shared a research guide in the end to help you out!*). The trickiest part here is that not every information available on the internet is reliable. The delegates need to be really vigilant about the sources they quote and present in the committee. You are free to look at all types of sources for your reference or preparation and understand the agenda better. However, it is advised that you verify your research from a credible source, which are listed below for your reference-

1. **Reuters** – It is one of the world's most trusted providers of answers. It is an independent private news agency, which mostly covers international events of importance.
(<http://www.reuters.com/>)
2. **State operated News Agencies** – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are listed as follows-
 - a. RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru/>
 - b. IRNA (Iran) <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm>
 - c. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China) <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>
3. **Government Reports:** These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is

that the Executive Board as credible information can still accept a report that is being denied by a certain country. Some examples are,

- a. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America (<http://www.state.gov/index.htm>)
- b. or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (<http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>)
- c. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>) or People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>).

4. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations

The documents from individual country websites also serve as a source for finding official statements by that country on various agendas. The nature of websites varies a lot from country to country.

Link- www.un.org/en/members/

5. Other Multilateral or Inter-Governmental Organizations

These are international organizations which are not a part of the United Nations. Usually one may find these organizations based around a specific region like South Asia, and with a specific purpose such as trade, security or cooperation. Documents from the same can be deemed credible; most certainly for the countries which are a part of that organization.

For example,

- a. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Website: www.saarc-sec.org
- b. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Website: www.nato.int/cps/en

6. United Nations and Affiliated Bodies

a. All reports or documents from the United Nations, its organs or affiliated bodies may be considered as a credible source of information. Website: www.un.org

Organs such as,

i. **UN Security Council** www.un.org/Docs/sc/

ii. **UNGA** www.un.org/en/ga/

b. UN Affiliated bodies such as,

i. **The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**
www.iaea.org

ii. **The World Bank (WB)** www.worldbank.org

7. Documents from Treaty Based Bodies

These are bodies which are strictly formed for looking after the implementation of an international treaty or agreement. For example,

a. **The Antarctic Treaty System**

www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm

b. **The International Criminal Court**

www.icc-cpi.int

Introduction of Committee

UNICEF was created in 1946 to provide relief to children in countries devastated by World War II. After 1950 the fund directed its efforts toward general programs for the improvement of children's welfare, particularly in less-developed countries and in various emergency situations. The organization's broader mission was reflected in the name it adopted in 1953, the United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1965. It is headquartered in New York City. UNICEF is the primary entity within the United Nations (UN) system working to promote and protect the rights of children, who are often disproportionately affected by conflict, instability, and poverty. Further, UNICEF plays a critical role in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). UNICEF seeks to address a wide range of topics regarding children, such as mainstreaming their significance in efforts to further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advocating for their human rights. In order to accurately simulate this committee, delegates will need to understand its role and mandate, while also keeping a global viewpoint to ensure solutions meet the needs of all children. UNICEF has concentrated much of its effort in areas in which relatively small expenditures can have a significant impact on the lives of the most disadvantaged children, such as the prevention and treatment of disease.

In keeping with this strategy, UNICEF supports immunization programs for childhood diseases and programs to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS; it also provides funding for health services, educational facilities, and other welfare services. Since 1996 UNICEF programs have been guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which affirms the right of all children to "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health." UNICEF's activities are financed by both government and private contributions. UNICEF works in the world's toughest places to reach the most disadvantaged children and adolescents – and to protect the rights of every child, everywhere.

Across more than 190 countries and territories, we do whatever it takes to help children survive, thrive and fulfill their potential, from early childhood through adolescence. Before, during and after humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF is on the ground, bringing life saving help and hope to children and families. Non-political and impartial, we are never neutral when it comes to defending children's rights and safeguarding their lives and futures.

INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA

Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth

Foundational documents on children's rights throughout time, from the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the recent 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) of 2015, place specific emphasis on the need to support, guide, and protect children and youth alike. In addition, the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) mission statement explicitly highlights the body's commitment to ensuring the "special protection" of children from all forms of violence and exploitation, thereby setting the foundation for the work UNICEF does. Nevertheless, violence against the world's children and youth continues to be prevalent in societies around the world, regardless of race, socio-economic status, culture, ethnicity, and/or religion. In its INSPIRE: Seven strategies for Ending Violence Against Children report, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that 75% of the world's two billion children suffered some type of abuse, cruelty, or violence in the 2015 to 2016 period. Moreover, SOS Children's Villages International, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that deals with issues pertaining to violence against children and youth, demonstrated that half of all individuals aged 2 to 17 have undergone emotional, physical, and/or sexual violence, while over 120 million girls under the age of 20 have been forced to commit sexual acts. Evidently, violence against children and youth remains a serious issue today, and the imperative nature of this topic was outlined in several of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), adopted in 2015.

Definitions of violence also differ from organization to organization. UNICEF uses the interpretation by the international NGO Save the Children, which defines violence as "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, [and] maltreatment and exploitations, including sexual abuse." From this definition, UNICEF outlines four main categories of direct violence against children: physical

violence, sexual violence, mental violence, and neglect/negligent treatment. However, children and youth can also be subject to indirect violence, where violence experienced by a secondary party has a psychological effect on these children's wellbeing. Indirect violence can cause similar distress as direct violence, with both of these leading to disturbances in mental development, learning difficulties, poor school performance, depression, and self-harm. Both indirect and direct violence often go unnoticed and/or unreported, especially since violence frequently comes from the individuals who are most closely affiliated with children and youth, their family members and guardians. Traditional practices, societal norms, and familial beliefs also play a role in heightening children's vulnerability to violence, and this is aggravated by the lack of child protection laws in certain regions of the world. These same norms and beliefs often lead to the perpetration of violence in multiple ways, including domestic violence, sexual violence, and violence in schools.

The framework for the elimination of violence against children and youth was initially set forth in 1924 by the League of Nations via the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which recognized the need to ensure that children receive the means for proper development, including the protection against all forms of exploitation. Then, in 1948, the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and in Articles 25 and 26 outlined the rights of children and young individuals to education, assistance, and special care. In 1966, the global community adopted the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), through which the rights of children and youth were further reinforced. The 1959 declaration was important; its commitments were not legally binding. This changed in 1989, when the CRC was adopted by the General Assembly, including 42 legally binding articles covering children's political, social, and economic rights. In 2000, the CRC was supplemented by two Optional Protocols, one of which focuses on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, while the other deals with the involvement of children in armed conflict. These Protocols, along with the CRC, demonstrated a paradigm shift in youth legislature because, by comprehensively addressing children's rights, they set the framework for every document pertaining to youth ever since, including major global agendas such as the Millennium Declaration (2000) and the 2030 Agenda.

In 2003, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/190 on the Rights of the Child, calling on Member States to prioritize, adhere to, and implement the CRC while paying close attention to children's right to be free from violence. Three years after this resolution, the first Report of the Independent Expert for the United Nations Study on

Violence Against Children was released, which aids in providing a global perspective on the topic of violence against children.

The post-2015 development agenda, set up by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, demonstrated a renewed international commitment to the elimination of violence against children and youth.⁹³ SDG 5, with the goal of achieving gender equality, includes targets 5.2 and 5.3, which emphasize the importance of protecting girls from violence, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation (FGM). Likewise, SDG 8 makes a specific reference to the elimination of violence against children in target 8.7, which calls for “immediate and effective measures” to put an end to child labor, child soldiers, and child sex workers. Most crucial to UNICEF for the topic at hand is SDG 16 on promoting “peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,” especially targets 16.2 and 16.3 that aim to end the “abuse, trafficking and all forms of violence against children.

SDG 5

Goal 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Gender equality is a human right. It is also a precondition for realising all goals in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Though girls and boys on average face similar challenges in early childhood, gender disparities become more pronounced as children grow. Adolescent girls, due to expected gender roles, may face a disproportionate burden of domestic work, expectations to be married, risks of early pregnancy, as well as sexual and gender-based violence. Globally, 650 million girls and women alive today have been married as children and over 200 million have undergone female genital mutilation. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened existing gender inequalities, especially for the most marginalised children.

UNICEF’s contribution towards reaching Goal 5 centres on embedding gender equitable results across all programming to ensure that children grow, learn and thrive, regardless of their gender. UNICEF places a special focus on adolescent girls in recognition that investment in adolescent girls has the potential to bring about transformative change for girls, their families and their communities, as well as for the next generation. UNICEF also supports governments in generating, analysing and using gender data to identify and address barriers to gender equality among children and women.

UNICEF is the custodian for global monitoring for two indicators that measure progress towards Goal 5:

Indicator 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18;

Indicator 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age.

UNICEF is also co-custodian for two Goal 5 indicators:

Indicator 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age;

Indicator 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.

SDG 8

Goal 8 aims to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. As this relates to children, Target 8.7 of this goal aims to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, as well as to end all forms of child labour by 2025. Children around the world are considered to be engaged in child labour when they are either too young to work or are carrying out activities that could compromise their physical, mental, social and/or educational development. Child labour is both a cause and consequence of poverty, reinforcing social inequality and discrimination.

Currently, it is estimated that 152 million children are engaged in child labour, with almost half, 72 million, working in hazardous child labour. The last two decades have seen a decline in child labour by 94 million. However, the COVID-19 pandemic now threatens to slow or even reverse the progress made and increases the risk of more children joining hazardous labour. The Secretary General's report on children and armed conflict continues to confirm that children are being recruited in their thousands, by state and non-state actors, to work as soldiers or other exploitative purposes in armed conflicts around the world. During the first 15 years that the report has been produced, more than 75,000 children were documented as being subject to this worst form of child labour.

SDG 16

Peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law are central to the realisation of child rights; and a prerequisite for sustainable development. SDG 16 includes several explicit targets for children (16.2 on violence against children; and 16.9 on legal identity for all, including birth registration); as well as many others where child rights are implicit, such as 16.3 on the rule of law and equal access to justice, 16.6 on strong institutions; and 16.7 on inclusive societies.

Goal 16 aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law, are central to the realisation of child rights, and a prerequisite for sustainable development. Governments can offer the first line of protection: birth registration systems give children claim to vital social services, equitable justice systems and other forms of child protection.

No child should ever be exposed to violence. Yet, globally, millions of children continue to face violence in their homes, schools, communities and online. Violence takes many forms: emotional, physical and sexual. Witnessing or experiencing violence erodes a child's health, well-being and potential.

UNICEF's contribution towards reaching this goal centres on ending the multiple kinds of violence children face around the world by supporting governments to build stronger child protection systems and challenging existing norms related to violence. UNICEF is custodian for global monitoring of two indicators that measure progress towards Goal 16:

Indicator 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month;

Indicator 16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18. UNICEF is also co-custodian for global monitoring

Indicator 16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority by age.

2030 Agenda for sustainable development

Children are affected by all of the sustainable development goals, whether poverty, hunger, inequality or climate change. Though the goals focus on sustainable development, they are inextricably linked to human rights generally and the rights of children specifically. As UNICEF has noted, the rights enshrined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, run through the Sustainable Development Goals and so the realisation of these goals must take into account the corresponding rights of children. The new goals are not revolutionary or a radical reinvention of rights and development standards, they set targets for development and the realisation of rights that already exist. This submission will focus on two main issues: access to justice and violence against children. This focus is not to undermine the importance of realising children's rights across the full ambit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but to highlight aspects that risk being underdeveloped. This submission argues that access to justice should be seen as a goal that underlies and supports the realisation of all of the other goals, while goal 16.2, the elimination of violence against children, must build on the UN Study on Violence Against Children in order to be effective.

Source for reference

<https://www.unicef.org/protection/justice-for-children>

<https://data.unicef.org/resources/children-in-detention-report/>

<https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/content/justice-system>

<https://www.unicef.org/eca/child-protection/access-justice>

https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/documents/publications/8._prevention_of_and_responses_to_violence_against_children_within_the_juvenile_justice_system.pdf

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/cpcj-justice-for-children.html>

Scroll Down for The Research Guide!



Get Started!

Here are a few things that you prepare for The MUN:

1. The Agenda item
2. The country that you are representing
3. Your Committee

The Agenda Item

The agenda item is basically what you and other delegates will be discussing throughout the entire conference. The agenda item/ the topic is described in the Background guide that is given before the start of the conference.

1. The keywords of the agenda item/ the topic

When you receive the agenda/ the topic, you should be well-aware of the keywords or the focus of your agenda/ topic. (The words help in framing deciding sub-categories/topics to raise motions also!)

2. The reason why the agenda is item an issue of worldwide concern

The agenda item is discussed by delegates during the conference because it is a global issue, and involves a lot of countries and policies. You have to find the relevant data or statistics regarding the issue and bring them up in the conference as that other delegates will be aware of the need to take actions towards this particular issue.

3. Countries that are involved, stakeholders of the agenda item

As mentioned, the agenda item discussed usually involves a lot of countries and stakeholders, and that's why you have to understand and be aware of the stakeholders' stances of the agenda.

4. The timeline and development of the agenda

Knowing the timeline and the development of the agenda could help you a lot with research. Getting to know the development of the topic can help you understand the relationships between countries and have a more thorough understanding of their stances.

The Country That You Are Representing

Before the conference, you must have received an allocation regarding the country that you will be a delegate for, here are a few things that you should research for before the conference starts.

1. The membership status of your country in the committee

There are a few types of membership status in the United Nations, including observers, permanent members, members, intergovernmental and other organizations, etc.

2. The stance of your country

Different countries can hold different stances on a particular topic. For instance, Bitcoin is illegal in South Africa, while it is illegal in Egypt. It is very important to know the stance of your country so that you will know what countries to form allies with during the conference.

3. Past actions/ taken by your country regarding the agenda and relevant documents

In the conference, you will talk about the actions that have been taken by your country and bear in mind that the actions that are taken by your country can be possible solutions for the issue. It would be useful if you can write down the name and important content of the documents and mention them in the conference speeches.

4. Your allies and your enemies

The stance and the actions taken by each country can be very diverse, countries may also have major clashes in between. For example, abortion is illegal in Ecuador under normal circumstances while it is legal in the UK. It is important to note the similarities and clashes between each country, and make sure not to form allies with your enemies if there are major clashes in between when drafting the resolution.

Your Committee

The mission of each committee can be very different. Before the conference, you should have a thorough understanding of your committee, and here are a few things that you should research for (some are already there in the background guide but you can always research more!)

1. The mission/ objectives of your committee

When you want to reach a consensus or merge blocks together, you can mention the goal of the committee to remind other delegates that we are all here to find the best possible solutions for a particular group of people or to achieve a certain goal. For example, the goal of UNHRC is to work towards human rights and ensure that no one's left behind. When there is a big argument between delegates, you can simply mention the goal and bring them together.

2. *Past actions taken by your committee and relevant documents

To perform well in Model United Nations, you must know the content of the documents and past actions taken by your committee. You can always find the past resolutions, meeting records, treaties, etc on the United Nations website. (The title of the relevant documents will often be mentioned in your study guides.)
(<https://www.un.org/en/sections/general/documents/>)

3. NGOs and private sectors that are relevant to your committee

The mechanisms of the United Nations often have close relationships with other NGOs and private sectors. Make sure you know which NGOs and private sectors are in relations with your committee.

*Here are a few websites that could help with your research and MUN journey!!!

Model UN Research- best delegate

<https://bestdelegate.com/research/>

How to research for a MUN- Munki

<http://munkiconference.weebly.com/how-to-research-for-a-mun.html>

How to research for MUN

<https://www.wisemee.com/mun-research-guide/>

 ***ALL THE BEST DELEGATES*** 