



**SRMUN Charlotte 2019**  
***Redefining the Role of International Organizations in the New Global Era***  
March 28 - 30, 2019  
[gaplen\\_charlotte@srmun.org](mailto:gaplen_charlotte@srmun.org)

Esteemed Delegates,

I welcome you to SRMUN Charlotte 2019 and the General Assembly (GA) Plenary. My name is Vanessa DuBoulay and it is my distinct pleasure to serve as your Director for this stimulating and exciting committee. This is my second year on SRMUN Charlotte staff, as last year I served as the Director for the Security Council. I have been involved with Model United Nations for over a decade and SRMUN Charlotte 2019 will be my 23rd conference! Additionally, I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with a concentration in international law from Nova Southeastern University. Serving as one of your Assistant Directors is Cecilie Barmoen. This is Cecilie's first time on SRMUN staff and has participated as a delegate. Cecilie obtained her Master's Degree in International Studies and Diplomacy at SOAS, University of London in England with a focus on conflict prevention and the power relations between the P-5. For her undergraduate career, she obtained a Bachelor's of Art in Global Studies from Pace University at Pleasantville, where she fell in love with Model UN and the SRMUN organization. Our other Assistant Director is Nina Matkava. This is Nina's first time on staff with SRMUN. Previously, Nina has attended SRMUN Charlotte as a delegate and served as Chair. Nina currently works at the Georgian Embassy for the United States as a political counselor's assistant. Through her work, she engages primarily with the executive branch of the U.S. government in matters of foreign affairs. Nina graduated in May 2018 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Bridgewater College. Currently, Nina is pursuing her Juris Doctor and plans to run for Congress in the future.

The General Assembly Plenary consists of all 193 Member States of the United Nations (UN) and is the only universally representative body within the UN. The GA is the discussion forum for a wide variety of global concerns and is the primary consensus building tool in the world. Bearing in mind the mandate and pillars of the United Nations, the GA, and the theme of SRMUN Charlotte 2019 we have chosen the following topics to discuss:

- I: Challenges of Eliminating Forced Labor
- II: Improving Access to Quality Healthcare for Children

This background guide serves as an introduction to the committees and a starting point for your research, however, it should not be utilized as a delegation's entire examination of the above topics. Each individual topic is prepared in depth and it is expected that delegates conduct research in preparation for the conference. Each delegation must submit a position paper no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) showcasing the Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For guidelines and additional information visit <http://www.srmun.org>. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than March 8, 2019, 11:59 pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Cecilie, Nina, and I send you the warmest regards in preparation for SRMUN Charlotte 2019 and look forward to your diligent work during committee. Please feel free to contact Director-General Zach Grieger, Nina, Cecilie, or myself should you have any questions during your preparation for the conference.

Vanessa DuBoulay  
Director  
[gaplen\\_charlotte@srmun.org](mailto:gaplen_charlotte@srmun.org)

Cecilie Barmoen  
Assistant Director

Nina Matkava  
Assistant Director

Zach Grieger  
Director General  
[dg\\_charlotte@srmun.org](mailto:dg_charlotte@srmun.org)

## Committee History of the General Assembly Plenary

The United Nations General Assembly (GA) Plenary was established in 1945 under Chapter IV of the United Nations (UN) Charter<sup>1</sup>. Comprising all 193 Member States of the UN, the GA Plenary provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.<sup>2</sup> This body was established as a founding institution of the UN and as the “deliberative, policy making and representative organ.”<sup>3</sup> It is the only universally representative body of the five principal organs of the UN.<sup>4</sup> The first session convened on January 10, 1946 with representatives from 51 Member States.<sup>5</sup> Since its inception, the General Assembly’s influence has grown through its authority to approve the admission of new Member States with the recommendation of the Security Council.<sup>6</sup> The General Assembly also includes two permanent observers, the Holy See and Palestine.<sup>7</sup>

Since its creation, the General Assembly has evolved into the main platform for dialogue between all Member States.<sup>8</sup> The GA works to maintain international peace and security by considering and making recommendations to Member States about sanctions and disarmament.<sup>9</sup> The GA is able to initiate studies and help facilitate international political cooperation.<sup>10</sup> This includes promoting the development of international law, spreading the recognition of fundamental freedoms and rights, and aiding in “international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields”.<sup>11</sup> The General Assembly acts as a mediator on peaceful settlements of situations that could damage the relationships between two or more Member States.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, this body is able to elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council as well as the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, it may appoint the Secretary-General.<sup>13</sup> Most importantly, pursuant to its “Uniting for Peace” resolution “the Assembly may also take action if the Security Council fails to act, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member, in a case where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression.”<sup>14</sup>

Resolutions usually require a simple majority to pass, with each Member State having one equal vote.<sup>15</sup> However, the General Assembly can determine that an issue is an important question. The important question status is reserved for issues dealing with the maintenance of international peace and security, admission of new members to

---

<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly functions with six main Committees, which can be found on:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/maincommittees/index.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> “Functions and Powers of the General Assembly,” United Nations General Assembly.

<https://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml> (accessed July 15, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> “About the General Assembly,” United Nations General Assembly. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/> (accessed July 15, 2017).

<sup>4</sup> “The Role of the UN General Assembly,” Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/role-un-general-assembly> (accessed August 11, 2017).

<sup>5</sup> “Functions and Power of the General Assembly,” United Nations General Assembly.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml> (accessed July 15, 2017).

<sup>6</sup> “About UN membership,” United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/member-states/about-un-membership/index.html> (accessed August 11, 2017).

<sup>7</sup> “The Role of the UN General Assembly,” Council of Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/role-un-general-assembly> (accessed July 15, 2018).

<sup>8</sup> “The General Assembly,” United Nations Foundation. <http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/united-nations/the-general-assembly.html> (accessed July 16, 2017).

<sup>9</sup> “Peace and Security,” United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/peace-and-security/> (accessed August 11, 2017).

<sup>10</sup> “Peace and Security,” United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/peace-and-security/> (accessed August 11, 2017).

<sup>11</sup> “Peace and Security,” United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/peace-and-security/> (accessed August 11, 2017).

<sup>12</sup> “The Role of the UN General Assembly,” Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/role-un-general-assembly> (accessed July 17, 2018).

<sup>13</sup> “Functions and Powers of the General Assembly,” United Nations General Assembly.

<https://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml> (accessed July 17, 2018).

<sup>14</sup> “Functions and Powers of the General Assembly,” United Nations General Assembly.

<https://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml> (accessed July 17, 2018).

<sup>15</sup> “Functions and Power of the General Assembly,” United Nations General Assembly.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml> (accessed July 15, 2017).

the United Nations, suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of members, the operation of the trusteeship system, or budgetary questions.<sup>16</sup> Every Member State has the right to vote unless they are in arrears of their financial debts to the UN for two or more years.<sup>17</sup> Observers have no voting rights as they are considered “non-Member States, entities, and organizations” that can only participate in the GA.<sup>18</sup>

Since the inception of the General Assembly, the body has passed many notable resolutions. In 1961, the General Assembly established the World Food Program through A/RES/1714 (one of the world’s largest humanitarian aid organization). This helped areas affected by natural disasters, healthcare emergencies, and poverty-stricken countries benefit from the food security.<sup>19</sup> The GA also handles Global Crisis and Global Action, they recognize that poverty and illiteracy are among the contributing factors to the spread of diseases, such as HIV or AIDS. To alleviate this, the GA passed A/RES/S-26/2 to combat HIV/AIDS in a comprehensive manner.<sup>20</sup> The body also passed The Montreal Protocol A/RES/42/182 in 1992, calling for the reduction of emissions of chlorofluorocarbons in an effort to help protect the atmosphere and prevent the deterioration of the ozone layer.<sup>21</sup> Through A/RES/2335, the General Assembly created the United Nations Children’s Fund, which works to protect the rights of children through immunizations, establishment of schools, and advocacy partnerships saving the lives of 90 million children around the world.<sup>22</sup> Additionally, the General Assembly’s resolution A/RES/2456 in 1968 titled the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons secured commitments from major world powers towards the promotion of disarmament.<sup>23 24</sup>

During the recent sessions relating to human rights, the body made significant strides by passing resolution A/RES/71/201 confronting the issue of missing persons. The General Assembly passed a resolution in regards to the status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia in Georgia.<sup>25</sup> They have also driven research into topics such as digital age privacy rights and the role of translators in fostering peace between Member States.<sup>26</sup> The General Assembly also funded peacekeeping and interim security force operations along with many stabilization missions across the globe.<sup>27</sup> Ultimately, the General Assembly works hard to cover all the needs of those within it, which not only creates a unique environment for debate, but also a great venue for change.

---

<sup>16</sup> “Background Information,” United Nations General Assembly. [http://www.un.org/ga/58/ga\\_background.html](http://www.un.org/ga/58/ga_background.html) (accessed July 16, 2017).

<sup>17</sup> “Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IV: The General Assembly,” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-iv/index.html> (accessed July 16, 2017).

<sup>18</sup> “Observers,” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/observers.shtml> (accessed on July 16, 2017).

<sup>19</sup> General Assembly Resolutions,” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/documents/general-assembly-resolutions/index.html> (accessed July 17, 2017).

<sup>20</sup> General Assembly Resolutions,” The United Nations. . <http://www.un.org/en/sections/documents/general-assembly-resolutions/index.html> (accessed July 17, 2017).

<sup>21</sup> General Assembly Resolutions,” The United Nations. . <http://www.un.org/en/sections/documents/general-assembly-resolutions/index.html> (accessed July 17, 2017).

<sup>22</sup> General Assembly Resolutions,” The United Nations. . <http://www.un.org/en/sections/documents/general-assembly-resolutions/index.html> (accessed July 17, 2017).

<http://www.un.org/en/sections/documents/general-assembly-resolutions/index.html> (accessed July 17, 2018).

<sup>23</sup> General Assembly Resolutions,” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/documents/general-assembly-resolutions/index.html> (accessed July 17, 2018).

<sup>24</sup> “5 United Nations Achievements Worth Celebrating on U.N. Day,” Time. <http://time.com/4085757/united-nations-achievements/> (accessed July 17, 2017).

<sup>25</sup> “General Assembly Adopts Resolution Recognizing Right of Return for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons in Georgia, No Matter Their Ethnicity,” United Nations. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/ga11919.doc.htm> (accessed July 18, 2018).

<sup>26</sup> “Resolutions 71<sup>st</sup> Session,” United Nations General Assembly. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/71/resolutions.shtml> (accessed July 18, 2018).

<sup>27</sup> “General Assembly Approves Nearly \$8 Billion for 15 Peacekeeping Missions in 2016/2017,” United Nations. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11794.doc.htm> (accessed July 18, 2018).

## I. Challenges of Eliminating Forced Labor

### *Introduction*

Forced labor continues to be a critical issue in the global community. The relevance of this issue is still critical as shown by the constantly increasing number of its victims. An estimated 25 million people are currently enslaved and kept against their will for forced daily labor and sexual exploitation.<sup>28</sup> The International Labor Organization (ILO) defines forced or compulsory labor as all types of "work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily."<sup>29</sup> Although each Member State defines the concept of forced labor differently, the ILO's definition has been recognized internationally and is the most commonly used worldwide.<sup>30</sup> Due to forced labor being a direct violation of the most basic human right, it is imperative that Member States seek address its abuses.

### *History*

It is important to note that forced labor differs from standard exploitative working conditions. The key indicators, such as limitation on workers' freedom, refusal of pay, suppression of a right to minimum wage, withholding of identity, threats, manipulation, debt, physical and/or sexual violence, and intimidation, are well recognized aspects of modern forced labor.<sup>31</sup> Moreover, forced labor not only violates fundamental human rights, but it is also classified as a criminal offense in some Member States.<sup>32</sup> For example, the ILO prohibits the use of forced labor by Member State authorities as a means of punishment for expressing political views, participation in anti-governmental gathering and strikes, and religious, racial, ethnic, and other forms of discrimination.<sup>33</sup>

There are three different types of forced labor: State-imposed forced labor, sexual exploitation of adults and children, and exploitation imposed by private agents. State-imposed forced labor occurs when State authorities exploit its own citizens. Even though State imposed labor can be considered illegal, under certain conditions, according to ILO's 2007 Convention in Geneva, exploitation by government officials such as prison labor, civic obligations, military service, work in an emergency situation such as war, famine, fire, flood, etc., as well as community service, can be an exception to the "forced labor" definition.<sup>34</sup> Another type of forced labor, forced sexual exploitation of adults and commercial sexual exploitation of children, incorporates the use of girls and boys in sexual activities, also known as, child prostitution, sex tourism, and the use of children in private and public sex shows.<sup>35</sup> When talking about forced labor, and more specifically sex trafficking, it is important to note that women and girls are the most targeted.<sup>36</sup> The female population is disproportionately vulnerable to human trafficking and

---

<sup>28</sup> "Forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking." International Labour Organization, <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm> (accessed September 29, 2018).

<sup>29</sup> "What is forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking." International Labour Organization, <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/definition/lang--en/index.htm> (accessed September 29, 2018).

<sup>30</sup> "Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (No. 29)." International Labour Organization, [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C029](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C029) (accessed September 29, 2018).

<sup>31</sup> "What is forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking." International Labour Organization, <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/definition/lang--en/index.htm> (accessed September 30, 2018).

<sup>32</sup> "Giving globalization a human face." International Labour Conference 101st Session, 2012, [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_174846.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_174846.pdf) (accessed September 25, 2018)

<sup>33</sup> "What us forced labor, modern slavery and human trafficking." International Labour Organization, <Index.htm> (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>34</sup> "What us forced labor, modern slavery and human trafficking." International Labour Organization, <Index.htm> (accessed September 26, 2018).

<sup>35</sup> "Commercial sexual exploitation of children." International Labour Organization, <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/areas/CSEC/lang--en/index.htm> (Accessed October 1st, 2018).

<sup>36</sup> "Report: Majority of trafficking victims are women and girls; once-this children." Sustainable Development Goals <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/12/report-majority-of-trafficking-victims-are-women-and-girls-one-third-children/> (accessed November 28, 2018)

sexual exploitation.<sup>37</sup> Lastly exploitation imposed by private agents can also be divided into the subcategories of: modern-day slavery/bonded labor, forced domestic labor, and work-imposed slavery. Modern slavery/bonded labor, also referred to as debt bondage or debt slavery, occurs when a person is forced to work to pay off her/his debt.<sup>38</sup> Often, the debt is passed down from one generation to another, making it a burden for the entire family.<sup>39</sup> Bonded labor has existed for a couple hundred years.<sup>40</sup> These kinds of transactions thrive due to poverty and limited access to education, affordable living conditions, jobs, and a lack of adequate justice systems.<sup>41</sup> Forced domestic labor, includes working inside of a private household while having minimal legal protection.<sup>42</sup> Forced domestic labor takes place when employers refuse to pay wages or allow workers to leave the premises. Likewise, the use of threats and withholding important documents to prevent workers from leaving also constitutes as forced domestic labor.<sup>43</sup> Forced labor affects millions of men, women, young adults, and children around the globe.<sup>44</sup> Three out of every 1,000 individuals worldwide are victims of forced labor.<sup>45</sup>

Most often, the industries affected by forced labor are those which require a high number of workers while having minimal regulation such as agriculture (fishing), domestic work, construction, mining, quarrying, market trading, etc.<sup>46</sup> In the year 2012, as recorded by the International Labor Organization, 18.7 million people were exploited within the private sector economy and approximately five million of those victims were used for sexual purposes.<sup>47</sup> Among cases where the type of work was known, the largest share of individuals forced to work were the people performing different tasks at a private household, also known as domestic workers.<sup>48</sup> Those tasks include, but are not limited to, cooking, cleaning, taking care of children and elderly, and running the errands.<sup>49</sup> The second largest population of forced domestic workers including those who worked at construction zones and within manufacturing, agriculture, and fishing sectors.<sup>50</sup>

Following the Forced Labor Convention of 1930, the Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, ratified by 173 of the 187 ILO members, and still active today, was passed in 1957.<sup>51</sup> The Convention prohibits forced labor as a means of

- 
- <sup>37</sup> “Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2016.” United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session.  
[https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A\\_RES\\_71\\_167.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_71_167.pdf) (accessed October 5, 2018)
- <sup>38</sup> “What is bonded labor?” Anti-Slavery, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/bonded-labour/> (accessed October 28, 2018)
- <sup>39</sup> “Bonded Labor.” End Slavery Now, <http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/bonded-labor> (accessed October 15, 2018)
- <sup>40</sup> “What is bonded labor?” Anti-Slavery, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/bonded-labour/> (accessed October 28, 2018)
- <sup>41</sup> “What is bonded labor?” Anti-Slavery, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/bonded-labour/> (accessed October 29, 2018)
- <sup>42</sup> “What is domestic slavery?” Anti-Slavery, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/domestic-work-and-slavery/> (accessed October 30, 2018)
- <sup>43</sup> “What is domestic slavery?” Anti-Slavery, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/domestic-work-and-slavery/> (accessed October 30, 2018)
- <sup>44</sup> “What is Forced Labor?” Anti-Slavery International, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/forced-labour/> (accessed September 30, 2018)
- <sup>45</sup> “Victims of forced labor by region.” international Labour Organization, [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_181961/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_181961/lang--en/index.htm) (accessed September 29, 2018)
- <sup>46</sup> “What is Forced Labor?” Anti-Slavery International, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/forced-labour/> (accessed September 30, 2018)
- <sup>47</sup> “What is Forced Labor?” Anti-Slavery International, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/forced-labour/> (accessed September 30, 2018)
- <sup>48</sup> “Forced Labor in Numbers.” International Labor Organization, [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_181961/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_181961/lang--en/index.htm) (accessed September 28, 2018)
- <sup>49</sup> “Domestic Slavery: What is it?” Anti-Slavery, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/domestic-work-and-slavery/> (accessed December 15, 2018)
- <sup>50</sup> “What is Forced Labor?” Anti-Slavery International, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/forced-labour/> (accessed September 30, 2018)
- <sup>51</sup> “International Labor Organization: Forced Labor Protocol Enters into Effect.” Global Legal Monitor,

“political coercion or education or as a punishment for holding or expressing political views or views ideologically opposed to the established political, social or economic system.”<sup>52</sup> The attending speakers noted that the Slavery Convention of 1926 provides all the necessary measures that must be taken to prevent compulsory or forced labor from developing into conditions analogous to slavery. While the Forced Labor Convention of 1930 permitted certain forms of forced labor, such as punishment for a certain political view and punishment for participation in a labor strike, the Abolition of the Forced Labor Convention, does not allow such behavior.<sup>53</sup> Article 2 of the Convention No. 105 emphasizes the importance of each Member of the International Labor Organization to take “effective measures to secure the immediate and complete abolition of forced or compulsory labor.”<sup>54</sup> Since forced labor needs to be eradicated completely, it is important to abolish any forms of it that can suggest its acceptability, i.e. using it as a means of punishment.

Furthermore, Document No. 29 of the same Convention laid out principles to establish safer living conditions for people.<sup>55</sup> This Convention, still active today, prohibits all forms of forced and compulsory labor, requires that the illegal extraction of forced labor be punishable as a penal offence, and makes sure that the relevant and adequate penalties are being imposed by the law.<sup>56</sup> Article 4 of the Forced Labor Convention underlines the need for responsible authorities to prevent the infliction of forced or compulsory labor for the benefit of specific individuals, companies and/or associations.<sup>57</sup> It also emphasizes the fact that if such forced or compulsory labor takes place within a Member State that has ratified this Convention, “the Member shall completely suppress such forced labor.”<sup>58</sup> Although the convention calls for the suppression of forced labor, the document does not outline the steps or offer guidance to Member States on how to achieve this goal.

### ***Current Challenges***

Despite the progress made to address forced labor in the international community, several challenges continue to persist in the increasingly integrated global market, both for goods and services and for labor. In 2015, the ILO concluded that approximately a quarter of workers worldwide secured permanent work contracts, meaning that the rest of the workforce was engaged in informal, undocumented, and/or unpaid work.<sup>59</sup> The rapid rise of forced workers, or those who are undocumented, unpaid, involuntary, and temporary was a key contributor to income

---

<http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/international-labour-organization-forced-labor-protocol-enters-into-effect/>  
(accessed December 15, 2018)

<sup>52</sup> “Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105).” International Labor Organization, [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C105](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C105) (accessed September 28, 2018)

<sup>53</sup> “Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105), Article 1.” International Labor Organization, [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C105](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C105) (accessed December 15, 2018),

<sup>54</sup> “Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105), Article II.” International Labor Organization, [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C105](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C105) (accessed September 28,

<sup>55</sup> “Ratifications of Co29 - Forced Labor Convention, 1930 (No. 29).” International Labor Organization, [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11300:0::NO:11300:P11300\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:312174](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11300:0::NO:11300:P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:312174) (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>56</sup> “Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29).” International Labour Organization, [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C029](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C029) (Accessed September 29, 2018)

<sup>57</sup> “Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105).” International Labor Organization, [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C105](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C105) (accessed September 28,

<sup>58</sup> “Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29).” International Labour Organization, [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C029](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C029) (Accessed September 29, 2018)

<sup>59</sup> ILO (2015) ‘World Employment and Social Outlook 2015: The Changing Nature of Jobs’, Geneva: ILO. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_368626.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_368626.pdf) (accessed November 26, 2018)

inequality in many Member States over the past two decades.<sup>60</sup> According to the ILO, forced labor is most prevalent in poorer areas, such as South Asia, where 4 out of 1,000 were the victims of forced labor.<sup>61,62</sup> Economic insecurity, associated with “unstable and unpredictable income,” encourages migration to other communities and Member States, placing higher risks for trafficking and exploitation.<sup>63,64</sup> Furthermore, individuals who come from households that lack food security or experienced decline in revenue are more likely to become victims of forced labor than others.<sup>65</sup> This is why it is empirically irrefutable that susceptibility to forced labor is shaped by poverty.<sup>66</sup>

Poverty is not the only factor that indicates the presence of forced labor. According to the 2016 United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report, the majority of human trafficking cases included female victims.<sup>67</sup> Based on the data of the UNODC Global Report, men and boys are trafficked for exploitative labor including mining, military purposes, and construction work.<sup>68</sup> In contrary, women are targeted for marriage and sexual slavery.<sup>69</sup> In general, while males are in danger of being forced into labor, it is revealed by the 2016 UNODC Global Report that the numbers of victims are much higher for the female population.<sup>70</sup>

Following gender inequality, migration is one of the main challenges associated with forced labor.<sup>71</sup> Migrants, especially younger ones, are more vulnerable to being trapped in dangerous workplaces with minimal or no protection at all. They become victims of oppressive and exploitative workplaces, including those businesses involved in sexual slavery and sex tourism.<sup>72</sup> Migrants become vulnerable to exploitative work at the borders. Hostile border policies push people to get involved with criminals and take dangerous and illegal paths in order to

---

<sup>60</sup> ILO (2015) ‘World Employment and Social Outlook 2015: The Changing Nature of Jobs’, Geneva: ILO  
[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_368626.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_368626.pdf)  
(accessed November 26, 2018)

<sup>61</sup> “Statistics on forced labor, modern slavery and human trafficking.” International Labor Organization,  
<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/policy-areas/statistics/lang--en/index.htm> (accessed December 16, 2018)

<sup>62</sup> “Asia and the Pacific.” The Global Slavery Index, <https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/regional-analysis/asia-and-the-pacific/> (accessed January 4, 2019)

<sup>63</sup> “Human Trafficking and Smuggling.” U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, <https://www.ice.gov/factsheets/human-trafficking> (accessed December 16, 2018)

<sup>64</sup> “Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,  
<https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/newrosenwebsite/TIPSOM/Human-trafficking-and-smuggling-of-migrants.html> (accessed December 16, 2018)

<sup>65</sup> ILO (2014) ‘Profits and Poverty: the Economics of Forced Labour’, Geneva: ILO.  
[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf)  
(accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>66</sup> ILO (2014) ‘Profits and Poverty: the Economics of Forced Labour’, Geneva: ILO.  
[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf)  
(accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>67</sup> “Report: Majority of trafficking victims are women and girls; once-third children.” Sustainable Development Goals  
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/12/report-majority-of-trafficking-victims-are-women-and-girls-one-third-children/> (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>68</sup> “Report: Majority of trafficking victims are women and girls; once-third children.” Sustainable Development Goals  
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/12/report-majority-of-trafficking-victims-are-women-and-girls-one-third-children/> (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>69</sup> “Report: Majority of trafficking victims are women and girls; once-third children.” Sustainable Development Goals  
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/12/report-majority-of-trafficking-victims-are-women-and-girls-one-third-children/> (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>70</sup> “Report: Majority of trafficking victims are women and girls; once-third children.” Sustainable Development Goals  
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/12/report-majority-of-trafficking-victims-are-women-and-girls-one-third-children/> (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>71</sup> “Global Employment Trends For Youth 2015.” International Labor Organization,  
[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_412015.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_412015.pdf)  
(accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>72</sup> “Global Employment Trends For Youth 2015.” International Labor Organization,  
[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_412015.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_412015.pdf)  
(accessed November 28, 2018)

cross the border.<sup>73 74</sup> Another issue associated with forced labor is weak global governance.<sup>75</sup> There are three key governance gaps that were created within the supply chains that facilitate forced labor business: the consistent under-enforcement of national and sub-national labor regulations, weak enforcement of international laws, and national legislative and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.<sup>76</sup> Global governance and national legislative approaches are weak at ensuring that the labor standards in the global supply chain are properly met and workers are protected. However, a governmental preference for self-regulation and corporate social responsibility initiatives are often not conducive for an environment conducive to the elimination of forced labor.<sup>77</sup> Despite the fact that forced labor has been legally banned in many Member States and victim protection laws exist, it is rare that authorities physically inspect whether the businesses are selling products that are the result of forced labor or if they indeed treat their workers well by providing stable working conditions and reasonable salary.<sup>78</sup>

Forced labor is prevalent in countries with high corruption levels.<sup>79</sup> Investigations conducted by the Environmental Justice Foundation and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) found that corrupted government officials were involved in transnational organized crime of smuggling people across the borders and letting companies exploit and abuse the workers.<sup>80</sup> One of the most well-known exploited and corrupted sectors is the fishing industry. Once aboard, fishermen become subjected to debt bondage and physical abuse.<sup>81</sup> The corruption takes places at all three levels of governance: local, regional, and international. For example, at the local level in the Southeast Asian fishing industry, particularly in Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia, immigration officers would allow undocumented, illegal workers to cross the borders.<sup>82</sup> Later, people in charge of the fishing company would pay local police officers to work as security guards in order to keep the victims at the sea port.<sup>83</sup> At the regional level, officials who have more authority than police officers, delay or fail to investigate the reports of human rights

---

<sup>73</sup> “Confronting the root causes of forced labor: restrictive mobility regimes.” Open Democracy, <https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/genevieve-lebaron-neil-howard-cameron-thibos-penelope-kyritsis/confronting-root-caus-4> (accessed November 27, 2018)

<sup>74</sup> “Managing Migration: Is border control fundamental to anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling interventions?” Anti-Trafficking Review, <http://www.antitraffickingreview.org/index.php/atrjournal/article/view/29/49>

<sup>75</sup> “Confronting the root causes of forced labor: governance gaps.” Open Democracy, <https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/genevieve-lebaron-neil-howard-cameron-thibos-penelope-kyritsis/confronting-root-caus-8> (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>76</sup> “Confronting the root causes of forced labor: governance gaps.” Open Democracy, <https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/genevieve-lebaron-neil-howard-cameron-thibos-penelope-kyritsis/confronting-root-caus-8> (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>77</sup> “Confronting the root causes of forced labor: governance gaps.” Open Democracy, <https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/genevieve-lebaron-neil-howard-cameron-thibos-penelope-kyritsis/confronting-root-caus-8> (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>78</sup> “When it comes to forced labor, transparency is mandatory but disclosure is discretionary.” Truthout, <https://truthout.org/articles/forced-labor-mandatory-transparency-discretionary-disclosure/>

<sup>79</sup> “Sustainable Supply Chains: Resources & Practices.” United Nations Global Compact, <http://supply-chain.unglobalcompact.org/site/article/164> (accessed November 29, 2018)

<sup>80</sup> “UNODC to take on corruption enabling forced labor in the fishing industry.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/what-we-do/anti-corruption/topics/08-forced-labour-in-the-fishing-industry.html> (accessed November 29, 2018)

<sup>81</sup> “UNODC to take on corruption enabling forced labor in the fishing industry.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/what-we-do/anti-corruption/topics/08-forced-labour-in-the-fishing-industry.html> (accessed November 29, 2018)

<sup>82</sup> “UNODC to take on corruption enabling forced labor in the fishing industry.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/what-we-do/anti-corruption/topics/08-forced-labour-in-the-fishing-industry.html> (accessed November 29, 2018)

<sup>83</sup> “UNODC to take on corruption enabling forced labor in the fishing industry.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/what-we-do/anti-corruption/topics/08-forced-labour-in-the-fishing-industry.html> (accessed November 29, 2018)

abuses.<sup>84</sup> At the international level, weak treaty enforcement and the absence of coordination between Member States to address these issues enables the illegal practices in the given regions to persist.<sup>85</sup>

### *UN and Global Initiatives*

The ILO addressed the Security Council on March of 2017, at the Council's meeting on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, and Forced Labor in Conflict Situations, by discussing the importance of a clear strategy for the elimination of forced labor. The main topic of discussion was the possible strategy of Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution.<sup>86</sup> Secretary-General Antonio Guterres highlighted that 21 million people are affected by extreme exploitation and barely survive their horrible living conditions, while individuals in-charge of such crimes are continuing to profit from the exploits at an estimated USD 150 billion annually.<sup>87</sup> According to UNODC, much more can and should be done to prevent and/or punish the individuals-in-charge for these crimes.<sup>88</sup> As a first step, Member States must "...strengthen cooperation on law enforcement, investigations, and intelligence-sharing."<sup>89</sup> Secretary-General Guterres also noted that while the long-term changes are being implemented, underlying vulnerabilities must also be addressed.<sup>90</sup> For example, it is important to promote empowerment of young girls through education, teach society to respect the rights of minorities, and establish an environment where children can find themselves safe and taken care of.<sup>91</sup> By implementing those measures, Member States will be better equipped to prevent and deal with the problem of forced labor at the source rather than as remedial action.

The Security Council's meeting emphasized the importance of devoting a great amount of resources to identifying and helping the victims of forced labor. According to Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, the international community is obligated to continue to "build the capacities to improve criminal-justice actions such as detecting, investigating, and successfully prosecuting human trafficking cases."<sup>92</sup> Alongside the UNODC, Member States expressed their dedication to solve the growing problem of forced labor. Ethiopia's Minister for Women and Children's Affairs stated that kidnapping was a typical means of extortion in Ethiopia, and that over the phone money-transfer systems were typically used to collect ransom. She underlined the importance of cooperation between origin, transit locations, and destination places.<sup>93</sup> Luxembourg's Ministers for Equal Opportunities stated

---

<sup>84</sup> "UNODC to take on corruption enabling forced labor in the fishing industry." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/what-we-do/anti-corruption/topics/08-forced-labour-in-the-fishing-industry.html> (accessed November 29, 2018)

<sup>85</sup> "UNODC to take on corruption enabling forced labor in the fishing industry." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/what-we-do/anti-corruption/topics/08-forced-labour-in-the-fishing-industry.html> (accessed November 29, 2018)

<sup>86</sup> "Prevention, Protection, Prosecution Stressed as Security Council Holds Open Debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Forced Labour in Conflict Situations." United Nations, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12751.doc.htm> (accessed September 25, 2018)

<sup>87</sup> "Prevention, Protection, Prosecution Stressed as Security Council Holds Open Debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Forced Labour in Conflict Situations." United Nations, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12751.doc.htm> (accessed September 25, 2018)

<sup>88</sup> "Human Trafficking." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html> (accessed September 30, 2018)

<sup>89</sup> "Member States Must Strengthen Cooperation on Law Enforcement, Sharing Intelligence in Struggle against Human Trafficking, Secretary-General Tells Security Council." United Nations, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sgsm18464.doc.htm> (accessed November 26, 2018)

<sup>90</sup> "Prevention, Protection, Prosecution Stressed as Security Council Holds Open Debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Forced Labour in Conflict Situations." United Nations, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12751.doc.htm> (accessed September 25, 2018)

<sup>91</sup> "Prevention, Protection, Prosecution Stressed as Security Council Holds Open Debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Forced Labour in Conflict Situations." United Nations, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12751.doc.htm> (accessed September 25, 2018)

<sup>92</sup> "Prevention, Protection, Prosecution Stressed as Security Council Holds Open Debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Forced Labour in Conflict Situations." United Nations, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12751.doc.htm> (accessed November 27, 2018)

<sup>93</sup> "Prevention, Protection, Prosecution Stressed as Security Council Holds Open Debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Forced Labour in Conflict Situations." United Nations, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12751.doc.htm> (accessed November 27, 2018)

their government was working with partners to disrupt and put an end to trafficking across the Mediterranean Sea.<sup>94</sup> The Minister also addressed the impact of stronger cooperation with neighboring Member States, which brought together not only Luxemburg, but also neighboring Member States and non-governmental organizations.<sup>95</sup>

Addressing the issue of complete elimination of forced labor is challenging, but there are ways of making progress through combined efforts. With the United States' support, ILO has made significant progress towards improving conditions and international labor standards worldwide.<sup>96</sup> Funding from the United States of America has enabled the ILO to develop further research concerning forced labor and human trafficking. This support has also made it possible to work on the implementation of evidence-based projects, training, compliance with the law, and regulations.<sup>97</sup> Such programs continue to raise awareness for reducing instances of forced labor, including increasing pressure on Member States to enforce both national and international laws against the practices that persist behind national borders.<sup>98</sup>

The 2005 Report of the Director-General of the International Labor Conference pointed out the severity of the problem associated with forced labor and human trafficking.<sup>99</sup> The document also stressed the importance of a serious punishment for the crime. The *ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*, states that all the Member States, "even if they have not ratified the Conventions in question, have an obligation arising from the very fact of membership in the Organization to respect, to promote and to realize, in good faith and in accordance with the Constitution, the principles concerning the fundamental rights which are the subject of those Conventions".<sup>100 101</sup> Yet, modern slavery is still a widespread issue across the world. ILO Member States, organizations, and international community are uniting in addressing the issues related to forced labor elimination.<sup>102</sup> There are regional action plans and policies against human traffickers that now recognize the various aspects of forced labor, including child labor.<sup>103</sup> For example, the 2005 United Nations Convention against the Transnational Organized Crime gave push to a number of States to begin adoption of the new legislation in their regions or amending their criminal law to address all forms of forced labor.<sup>104</sup>

Continuing with UN initiatives, the high corruption rate in the 2000s led to the creation of the legally binding international treaty, known as the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), drafted in 2003 and effective since 2005.<sup>105</sup> The Convention focuses primarily on the elimination of corrupted government officials and addressed the

---

<sup>94</sup> "Prevention, Protection, Prosecution Stressed as Security Council Holds Open Debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Forced Labour in Conflict Situations." United Nations, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12751.doc.htm> (accessed September 25, 2018)

<sup>95</sup> "Prevention, Protection, Prosecution Stressed as Security Council Holds Open Debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Forced Labour in Conflict Situations." United Nations, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12751.doc.htm> (accessed September 25, 2018)

<sup>96</sup> "Forced Labour, modern slavery and human trafficking." International Labour Organization, <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm> (accessed September 27, 2018)

<sup>97</sup> "Forced Labour, modern slavery and human trafficking." International Labour Organization, <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm> (accessed September 27, 2018)

<sup>98</sup> "Forced Labour, modern slavery and human trafficking." International Labour Organization, <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm> (accessed September 27, 2018)

<sup>99</sup> "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor." International Labor Conference, 93rd Session 2005, <https://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/reim/ilc/ilc93/pdf/rep-i-b.pdf> (accessed September 24, 2018)

<sup>100</sup> "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor." International Labor Conference, 93rd Session 2005, <https://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/reim/ilc/ilc93/pdf/rep-i-b.pdf> (accessed September 24, 2018)

<sup>101</sup> "The text of the Declaration and its follow-up." International Labor Organization, <https://www.ilo.org/declaration/thedeclaration/textdeclaration/lang--en/index.htm> (accessed December 15, 2018)

<sup>102</sup> "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor." International Labor Conference, 93rd Session 2005, <https://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/reim/ilc/ilc93/pdf/rep-i-b.pdf> (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>103</sup> "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor." International Labor Conference, 93rd Session 2005, <https://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/reim/ilc/ilc93/pdf/rep-i-b.pdf> (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>104</sup> "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor." International Labor Conference, 93rd Session 2005, <https://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/reim/ilc/ilc93/pdf/rep-i-b.pdf> (accessed November 28, 2018)

<sup>105</sup> "United Nations Convention Against Corruption." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, [https://www.unodc.org/documents/brussels/UN\\_Convention\\_Against\\_Corruption.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/brussels/UN_Convention_Against_Corruption.pdf) (accessed January 3, 2019)

different issues associated with corrupted government structures.<sup>106</sup><sup>107</sup> The document covers five areas: criminalization and law enforcement, preventive measures, international cooperation, technical assistance and information exchange, and asset recovery.<sup>108</sup> Corruption cases can be legally prosecuted, but it requires the preventative measures to be addressed on a long term basis.<sup>109</sup> Preventive measures are directed at the public and private sectors, and include policies such as the establishment of transparency and anticorruption institutions. The Convention calls upon Member States to involve more NGOs and community-based organizations.<sup>110</sup> The criminalization aspect of the Convention requires the Member States to establish and enforce the laws that cover the wide range acts of corruption.<sup>111</sup> Such practice includes the prevention, investigation, and the prosecution of the guilty party.<sup>112</sup> In addition, after intensive negotiations, several Member States agreed that the fundamental principle of the Convention is asset-recovery.<sup>113</sup><sup>114</sup> In addition to providing the frameworks for preventing corruption, the Convention makes it difficult for government officials to remain free and unpunished, and limits the ability of private companies to keep engaging in illegal practices.<sup>115</sup>

## **Conclusion**

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime, ILO, Global Alliance Against Forced Labor, UN Convention against Corruption, and other NGOs, continue to push for the complete elimination of forced labor. Despite the significant progress that has been made, the practice of compulsory and forced labor is still prevalent. Forced labor comes in different forms, including state-imposed forced labor, sexual exploitation of adults and children, and exploitation imposed by private agents. It is believed that corruption, poverty, and gender inequality serve as a base for a illegal practices that affect millions of people worldwide. Through research it can be understood that forced labor often occurs in developing Member States, with low level of income, weak government, and poor legal enforcement of existing laws. Different UN and global initiatives have been presented, underlining the importance of addressing this global challenge, but finding better ways of preventing it from happening in a first place. Forced Labor Convention of 1930, Abolition of Forced Labor Convention of 1957, and United Nations Convention Against Corruption have had a positive impact on the declining number of forced labor victims. Furthermore, ILO have helped Member States to implement stricter policies and laws for the offenders of such a crime. Unfortunately, the ratification of treaties does not guarantee the elimination of forced labor. With the open platform, combined efforts, and willingness to cooperate with one another, the barriers standing in front of complete elimination of forced labor will be easier to break.

- 
- <sup>106</sup> “Corruption Perceptions Index.” Transparency International, [https://www.transparency.org/research/cpi/cpi\\_2005/0](https://www.transparency.org/research/cpi/cpi_2005/0) (accessed November 28, 2018)
- <sup>107</sup> “United Nations Convention against Corruption.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/> (accessed November 28, 2018)
- <sup>108</sup> “United Nations Convention against Corruption.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/uncac.html> (accessed November 28, 2018)
- <sup>109</sup> “United Nations Convention against Corruption.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/convention-highlights.html> (accessed November 28, 2018)
- <sup>110</sup> “United Nations Convention against Corruption.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/convention-highlights.html> (accessed November 28, 2018)
- <sup>111</sup> “United Nations Convention against Corruption.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/convention-highlights.html> (accessed November 28, 2018)
- <sup>112</sup> “United Nations Convention against Corruption.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/convention-highlights.html> (accessed November 28, 2018)
- <sup>113</sup> “United Nations Convention against Corruption.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/convention-highlights.html> (accessed November 28, 2018)
- <sup>114</sup> “Management of seized and confiscated assets.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/asset-management.html> (accessed December 15, 2018)
- <sup>115</sup> “United Nations Convention against Corruption.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/convention-highlights.html> (accessed November 28, 2018)

### *Committee Directive*

Forced labor continues to exist and more people fall victim to this condition each day. Political instability, migration, and inadequate and poor living conditions are some of the main causes leading to forced slavery. However, the problem itself is more than just the sum of its causes and involves cooperation by both public and private sectors. Corruption, weak governance, and the lack of transnational action all help to perpetuate the existence of this long-standing problem. The global community is taking a great number of measures in trying to stop the violence and enslavement of innocent people, while also creating a safe environment for future generations. Within this committee, the goal is to focus on the challenges facing the elimination of forced labor and on feasible ways of addressing them. It is vital to focus on the root cause and any issues associated with the human rights abuses derived from forced labor. What framework should nations follow to address forced labor on a national and international level? How can the General Assembly Plenary ensure cooperation among countries of origin, transit, and destination? In which ways can compliance to the ratified Conventions be assessed and monitored? What mechanisms of enforcement can the global community use to ensure compliance with the proposed stipulations? In what ways can we address the challenges conducive to forced labor on domestic, regional, and international levels? What incentives can be provided to Member States to ensure that they practice accountability and transparency in addressing forced labor?

## II. Improving the Access to Quality Healthcare for Children

### *Introduction*

Access to proper resources is necessary to ensure that all children have the quality of healthcare in order to grow and develop into healthy adults. Almost six million children die every year before their fifth birthday, and this is mostly due to preventable causes that can easily be treated with effective drugs and medical resources.<sup>116 117</sup> Overall, a lack of access to healthcare contributes to over 50 percent of all child mortality.<sup>118</sup> This astonishing rate demonstrates the importance of resolving the issue of providing access to quality healthcare, particularly for children, within the global community. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal #3 reads as follows: “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.”<sup>119</sup> It is therefore imperative to promote well-being from a young age, by ensuring a strong commitment to addressing, improving, and raising the quality of children’s healthcare, ensuring both a prosperous life for the child, but healthy economic and social growth for all communities around the world.

### *History*

In 1924, the League of Nations adopted the first document on the Rights of the Child. This was established to protect children from exploitation and ensure their health.<sup>120</sup> Subsequently, in 1959, the United Nations (UN) adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, also known as the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child.<sup>121</sup> This new declaration was a more extensive version of the previous 1924 document. While the first document had five principles, the new declaration has 10.<sup>122</sup> On the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Declaration, the UN General Assembly adopted and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child through A/RES/44/25 on November 20, 1989.<sup>123</sup> This convention lays out the civil, political, economic, social, health, and cultural rights of children. The Convention states in Article 24 (1) that:

*“States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.”<sup>124</sup>*

However, only 140 Member States of the United Nations are currently signatories of the Convention.<sup>125</sup> Additionally, the United States is the only party who has signed, but not yet ratified the Convention.<sup>126</sup> All Member States who ratify the Convention are bound to it by international law, and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) monitors its compliance.<sup>127</sup>

---

<sup>116</sup> “Health and Nutrition,” Save the Children. <https://www.savethechildren.net/what-we-do/health-and-nutrition> (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>117</sup> “Health and Nutrition,” Save the Children, <https://www.savethechildren.net/what-we-do/health-and-nutrition> (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>118</sup> “Health and Nutrition,” Save the Children. <https://www.savethechildren.net/what-we-do/health-and-nutrition> (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>119</sup> “Sustainable Development Goal 3,” United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3> (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>120</sup> League of Nations, Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, September 26, 1924.

<sup>121</sup> League of Nations, Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, September 26, 1924.

<sup>122</sup> United Nations General Assembly, Declaration of the Rights of the Child, November 20, 1959.

<sup>123</sup> United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, November 20, 1989.

<sup>124</sup> United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, November 20, 1989.

<sup>125</sup> United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, November 20, 1989.

<sup>126</sup> “Convention on the Rights of the Child: Frequently Asked Questions,” Amnesty International USA, December 22, 2008. [https://www.amnestyusa.org/children/crn\\_faq.html](https://www.amnestyusa.org/children/crn_faq.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>127</sup> “The Convention,” Child Rights International Network, <https://www.crin.org/en/home/rights/convention>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

Every year, the CRC submits a report to the General Assembly with a statement from its Chair. The purpose of this statement is to ensure the transparency of the monitoring process involved in the implementation of child rights.<sup>128</sup> In addition, the Member States who have ratified the Convention have to submit a report and are examined on their progress, as well as the status of child rights within their territory.<sup>129</sup> The CRC oversees the implementation of child rights and advises Member States on legislation and coordination of national policies.<sup>130</sup> Furthermore, the CRC considers complaints on violations of the Convention, making compliance to the Convention more likely to be upheld.<sup>131</sup> When a Member State is not taking the necessary steps to ensure proper care of children's rights, the UN, often with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), will firstly notify said Member State about what needs to be changed. If no modification is made, then the UN will ask global organizations and other Member States to provide assistance to ensure that said Member State makes necessary changes to their government process.<sup>132</sup>

UNICEF works to promote children's rights and has more than 60 years of experience in the field.<sup>133</sup> The organization was founded in December 11, 1946 to ensure food, clothing and healthcare was provided to children who faced famine and disease after World War II.<sup>134</sup> UNICEF is also the only organization specifically named as experts in the Convention of the Rights of the Child.<sup>135</sup> The CRC and UNICEF, along with those Member States who have subscribed to the Convention, are all actively working together to monitor the implementation of child rights and to ensure the transparency of Member States.<sup>136</sup> Through field offices of the UN and UNICEF, governments are assisted with drafting reports and strategies with implementation efforts.<sup>137</sup> Drawing from the Convention, UNICEF is charged with ensuring that every child is protected, healthy and, educated, which can be achieved through a focus on economic and social progress.<sup>138</sup> The Convention impacts all Member States, and this is guaranteed through collaboration with different international and local organizations, as well as through field offices in Member States.<sup>139</sup> In 1982, UNICEF launched *The Child Survival and Development Revolution*, which considered the statistics and facts that UNICEF attained from their work to reduce child mortality around the world in the previous years.<sup>140</sup> This revolution lasted from 1982 to the 1990s, and aimed to establish a direct linkage between child mortality and development.<sup>141</sup> This revolution led to several programs and conferences, including the World Summit for Children in 1990.<sup>142</sup>

---

<sup>128</sup> "The Convention," Child Rights International Network.

<sup>129</sup> "Convention on the Rights of the Child: Using the CRC and Protocols for Children," UNICEF, November 30, 2005, [https://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_using.html](https://www.unicef.org/crc/index_using.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>130</sup> "Convention on the Rights of the Child: Implementation," UNICEF, May 19, 2014, [https://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_30208.html](https://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30208.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>131</sup> "Committee on the Rights of the Child: Monitoring Children's Rights," United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIntro.aspx>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>132</sup> "Convention on the Rights of the Child: Frequently asked questions," UNICEF, November 30, 2005, [https://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_30229.html](https://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30229.html), (accessed October 5, 2018).

<sup>133</sup> "Convention on the Rights of the Child: UNICEF and the CRC," UNICEF, May 30, 2014, [https://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_action.html](https://www.unicef.org/crc/index_action.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>134</sup> "UNICEF: 70 years for every child," UNICEF, [https://www.unicef.org/about/who/index\\_history.html](https://www.unicef.org/about/who/index_history.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>135</sup> "Convention on the Rights of the Child: UNICEF and the CRC". [https://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_action.html](https://www.unicef.org/crc/index_action.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>136</sup> "Convention on the Rights of the Child: UNICEF and the CRC". [https://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_action.html](https://www.unicef.org/crc/index_action.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>137</sup> "Convention on the Rights of the Child: UNICEF and the CRC". [https://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_action.html](https://www.unicef.org/crc/index_action.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>138</sup> "Our mandate: no child left behind," UNICEF, <https://www.unicef.org/eca/our-mandate-no-child-left-behind>, (accessed December 15, 2018).

<sup>139</sup> "Convention on the Rights of the Child: FAQs and Resources," UNICEF, June 24, 2016, [https://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_30225.html](https://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30225.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>140</sup> "Learning from experience: 1980-1988," UNICEF, January 22, 2018, <https://wcmprod.unicef.org/stories/learning-experience-1980-1988>, (accessed October 5, 2018).

<sup>141</sup> "The 1980s: Campaign for child survival," UNICEF – The State of the World's Children 1996, <https://www.unicef.org/sowc96/1980s.htm>, (accessed October 29, 2018).

<sup>142</sup> Kul Chandra Gautam, "USAID and UNICEF: A Winning Partnership for Child Survival and Development," Huffington Post, December 6, 2017, [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/kul-chandra-gautam/child-mortality\\_b\\_1619727.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/kul-chandra-gautam/child-mortality_b_1619727.html?guccounter=1), (accessed October 29, 2018).

Another key player in ensuring children's access to adequate healthcare is the World Health Organization (WHO) which was established on April 7, 1948. This organization has grown into one of the most significant health resources globally with 150 Member State offices.<sup>143</sup> WHO's key issues have centered around the prevention and elimination of smallpox, polio, measles, and malaria.<sup>144</sup> WHO does collaborate with several other agencies, such as UNICEF, and has established the Expanded Program on Immunization, which brought vaccines to millions of children throughout the world.<sup>145</sup> More recently, the focus of WHO has expanded from vaccine treatment to autism spectrum disorders (ASD), and ensuring appropriate access and quality of services for those children affected by it.

### ***Healthcare Access in the Developing World***

Healthcare access for children in developing Member States is lower and represents a more significant problem than it does among the developed Member States.<sup>146</sup> Often in developing communities, there is a fear of being stigmatized and discriminated against for treatment of epidemics such as HIV and AIDS, which inevitably increases the chance of not receiving proper healthcare.<sup>147</sup> Additionally, Member States that are affected by humanitarian emergencies also have less ability to ensure adequate access to care. Around 30-50 percent of the death toll in a humanitarian emergency stems from children not having proper healthcare access.<sup>148</sup> The access to proper healthcare is limited because of the lack of coping-capacity, a result of insufficient resources.<sup>149</sup> In addition, in the case of a humanitarian crises, basic necessities, such as clean water and shelter, are not readily available.<sup>150</sup> For example, political instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo, contributes to a mortality rate of 30 deaths per 1,000 live births for one in eight children under five years old.<sup>151</sup> According to UNICEF, almost two thirds of children who are not vaccinated live in Member States who are affected by both political and humanitarian conflicts.<sup>152</sup> The study "*UNICEF Vaccine Supply Overview: Priorities, status and way forward*", published by UNICEF, shows that 30 percent of children who live in conflict-affected areas die from measles outbreaks, compared to less than one percent of children who live in non-conflicts areas.<sup>153</sup> Lack of funding and overcapacity of the health system are usually at the forefront of the issues contributing to this number.<sup>154</sup>

In the Middle East, children have reduced availability of access to healthcare facilities and education due to conflict-related violence. Children in the Middle East live in hard-to-reach areas with a lack of infrastructure and where sanitation and hygiene installations are often under attack which challenges the ability to provide adequate healthcare for children.<sup>155</sup> Similarly, a report on the situation in Afghanistan given to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in 2016, shows that doctors, nurses, and teachers were subjected to violence and were not

---

<sup>143</sup> "About WHO: Better health for everyone, everywhere," World Health Organization, <http://www.who.int/about-us>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>144</sup> "WHO at 70 – working for better health for everyone, everywhere," World Health Organization.

<sup>145</sup> "WHO at 70 – working for better health for everyone, everywhere," World Health Organization.

<sup>146</sup> "Far greater effort needed to eradicate extreme poverty in world's poorest nations – UN report," UN News, October 23, 2014, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2014/10/481792-far-greater-effort-needed-eradicate-extreme-poverty-worlds-poorest-nations-un>, (accessed October 6, 2018).

<sup>147</sup> "Good Health and Well-Being: Why It Matters," Sustainable Development Goals, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Goal-3.pdf>, (accessed October 30, 2018).

<sup>148</sup> "Health in Emergencies," UNICEF, August 9, 2016, [https://www.unicef.org/health/index\\_emergencies.html](https://www.unicef.org/health/index_emergencies.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>149</sup> "Health in Emergencies," UNICEF, August 9, 2016. [https://www.unicef.org/health/index\\_emergencies.html](https://www.unicef.org/health/index_emergencies.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>150</sup> "Health in Emergencies," UNICEF, August 9, 2016. [https://www.unicef.org/health/index\\_emergencies.html](https://www.unicef.org/health/index_emergencies.html), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>151</sup> Save the Children/World Health Organization/UNICEF, "Newborn Health in Humanitarian Settings: Field Guide," November 23, 2017, <https://www.healthynewbornnetwork.org/hnn-content/uploads/NewBornHealthBook-Production2017-V4b-WEB.pdf>, (accessed October 6, 2018).

<sup>152</sup> "Two thirds of unimmunized children live in conflict-affected countries – UNICEF," UN News, April 22, 2016, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2016/04/527422-two-thirds-unimmunized-children-live-conflict-affected-countries-unicef>, (accessed October 29, 2018).

<sup>153</sup> "Two thirds of unimmunized children live in conflict-affected countries – UNICEF," UN News.

<sup>154</sup> "Health in Emergencies," UNICEF, August 9, 2016.

<sup>155</sup> "UNICEF: Decades of progress for children at risk across Middle East and North Africa," UN News Centre, September 11, 2017, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/09/unicef-decades-of-progress-for-children-at-risk-across-middle-east-and-north-africa/>, (accessed December 1, 2018).

able to perform the services they were paid for.<sup>156</sup> Schools and medical facilities were either attacked or misused in the conflicts.<sup>157</sup> UNAMA and UNICEF documented that the incidents had risen from year 2014 to 2015, with 125 incidents in the last year, compared to 59 in the previous year.<sup>158</sup> In the period of 2013-2015, over 125 incidents have occurred within health facilities. As a result, 19 clinics are closed, 90,000 children have missed their immunizations, and 129 health personnel were either killed, injured or abducted.<sup>159</sup>

During the annual meeting on the Rights of the Child in 2013, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights emphasized that a child rights-based approach to health issues is the key to reducing the difference between children living in developing and developed Member States.<sup>160</sup> The Human Rights Council has initiated several programs across developing regions, but the progress is uneven.<sup>161</sup> The efforts made by Member States and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) cannot sustain the given what is needed for operations, which makes it impossible to keep the programs running.<sup>162</sup> Vaccination campaigns and immunizations in conflict-affected areas are the main priority for UNICEF to ensure proper healthcare for all children.<sup>163</sup>

The Dominican Republic had an ongoing project between 2010 and 2016 to improve health access, which led to the health sector reform APL2 (PARSS2). This project was in collaboration with the World Bank, and benefitted more than 1 million individuals in addition to decreasing health inequities by providing 366,236 individuals proper healthcare.<sup>164</sup> By strengthening the health institutions at both central and regional levels, poor individuals got access to healthcare delivery and financial protection.<sup>165</sup> All children under 15 months old in the participating regions completed the vaccination program according to national protocols.<sup>166</sup> This project made it easier for all parents and guardians to ensure proper healthcare for their children.

### ***Current Health Concerns***

#### *Special conditions under Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)*

ASD is a development disorder that often begins during early childhood and is categorized by a different range of conditions that impact social behaviors, language, and communication.<sup>167</sup> Children who are diagnosed with ASD often suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety, depression or epilepsy. Conditions like

---

<sup>156</sup> “Education and Healthcare at Risk for Children in Afghanistan,” United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, April 18, 2016, <https://unama.unmissions.org/education-and-healthcare-risk-children-afghanistan>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>157</sup> “Education and Healthcare at Risk for Children in Afghanistan,” United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, <https://unama.unmissions.org/education-and-healthcare-risk-children-afghanistan>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>158</sup> “Education and Healthcare at Risk for Children in Afghanistan,” United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, April 18, 2016.

<sup>159</sup> United Nations, Education and Healthcare at Risk, April 2016, [https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/education\\_and\\_healthcare\\_at\\_risk.pdf](https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/education_and_healthcare_at_risk.pdf), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>160</sup> “States must ensure children’s health is not undermined by discrimination – UN Official,” UN News, March 7, 2013, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2013/03/433682-states-must-ensure-childrens-health-not-undermined-discrimination-un-official>, (accessed October 29, 2018).

<sup>161</sup> “States must ensure children’s health is not undermined by discrimination – UN Official,” UN News, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2013/03/433682-states-must-ensure-childrens-health-not-undermined-discrimination-un-official>, (accessed October 29, 2018).

<sup>162</sup> “States must ensure children’s health is not undermined by discrimination – UN Official,” UN News, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2013/03/433682-states-must-ensure-childrens-health-not-undermined-discrimination-un-official>, (accessed October 29, 2018).

<sup>163</sup> “Two thirds of unimmunized children live in conflict-affected countries – UNICEF,” UN News, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2013/03/433682-states-must-ensure-childrens-health-not-undermined-discrimination-un-official>, (accessed October 29, 2018).

<sup>164</sup> “Improving Health Coverage and Access for Mothers, Children and People with Chronic Conditions in the Dominican Republic,” The World Bank, April 3, 2017, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2017/04/03/improving-health-coverage-access-dominican-republic>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>165</sup> “Improving Health Coverage and Access for Mothers, Children and People with Chronic Conditions in the Dominican Republic,” The World Bank, April 3, 2017.

<sup>166</sup> “Improving Health Coverage and Access for Mothers, Children and People with Chronic Conditions in the Dominican Republic,” The World Bank, April 3, 2017.

<sup>167</sup> “Autism Spectrum Disorders,” World Health Organization.

these require more extensive healthcare and treatment than the average health visit requires.<sup>168</sup> Research and field testing done by the WHO Caregiver Skills Training (CST) program shows that frequent medical interventions and monitoring during the early years are optimal for ensuring a child's proper development.<sup>169</sup> Children with ASD require advanced healthcare, including rehabilitation services and collaboration with other sectors such as education.<sup>170171</sup> Patients with ASD often have problems with communication and an insensitivity to pain, which makes it difficult for health personnel to treat the patient for the appropriate condition.<sup>172</sup> Also, resources to treat and manage ASD in developing Member States are limited. In 2014, during its 67<sup>th</sup> session, WHO adopted a resolution calling for "*Comprehensive and coordinated efforts for the management of autism spectrum disorders.*"<sup>173</sup> This document highlights the importance of monitoring child development, which is an area pending consensus and resolution.

Almost 250 million children in low and middle-income Member States are not able to reach their full development through the 0-8 years span. According to WHO, the average age for full development in an ideal living environment is before the child reaches eight years old.<sup>174</sup> The World Health Organization has put forth the CST Program, which is a useful tool for providing knowledge about health problems prevalent in kids with ASD and distributes any appropriate information on how to deal with these problems.<sup>175</sup> The Program is available to Member States upon request, but its application depends on resources from the Member State.<sup>176</sup> Additionally, inadequate knowledge and training among healthcare personnel, particularly regarding special conditions such as ASD, is another factor limiting access to proper care.<sup>177</sup>

### *Diarrheal disease*

Diarrheal disease is the leading cause of child mortality in the world. This disease predominantly affects developing Member States, where governments provide little to no funding to alleviate or prevent the problem.<sup>178</sup> More than 200,000 children under five years old and 29 percent of the world's child-aged population die every year from diarrheal disease.<sup>179</sup> This can easily be prevented by ensuring access to safe-drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene.<sup>180</sup> Moreover, children who are affected by diarrheal disease are more likely to be affected by other diseases as well.<sup>181</sup> This is because the immune system declines drastically when exposed to this illness.<sup>182</sup> Vaccination plays a fundamental role in diminishing child mortality as it prevents exposure to many diseases in large scales. Studies done in collaboration with WHO and their Strategic Communication Framework prove that it is possible to remove

---

<sup>168</sup> "Autism Spectrum Disorders," World Health Organization.

<sup>169</sup> "Autism Spectrum Disorders," World Health Organization.

<sup>170</sup> "Autism Spectrum Disorders," World Health Organization.

<sup>171</sup> "Autism Spectrum Disorders," World Health Organization.

<sup>172</sup> "Autism spectrum disorders & other developmental disorders: From raising awareness to building capacity," World Health Organization, September 18, 2013.

[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/103312/9789241506618\\_eng.pdf;jsessionid=6068B84222F5446BADCCAF8C80D3573?sequence=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/103312/9789241506618_eng.pdf;jsessionid=6068B84222F5446BADCCAF8C80D3573?sequence=1), (accessed November 30, 2018).

<sup>173</sup> World Health Organization, Comprehensive and coordinated efforts for the management of autism spectrum disorders, WHA67.8, May 24, 2014, [http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/maternal-child/WHA67.8\\_resolution\\_autism.pdf](http://www.who.int/mental_health/maternal-child/WHA67.8_resolution_autism.pdf), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>174</sup> "Early Child Development," World Health Organization, <http://www.who.int/topics/early-child-development/en/>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>175</sup> "Mental Health: Training Parents to Transform Children's Lives," World Health Organization.

<sup>176</sup> "Mental Health: Training Parents to Transform Children's Lives," World Health Organization.

<sup>177</sup> "Health in Emergencies," UNICEF, August 9, 2016.

<sup>178</sup> "Diarrheal Disease," World Health Organization, May 2, 2017, <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/diarrhoeal-disease>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>179</sup> "Ending Preventable Deaths from Pneumonia and Diarrhea by 2025," World Health Organization, April 10, 2013, [http://www.who.int/maternal\\_child\\_adolescent/news\\_events/news/2013/gappd\\_launch/en/](http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/news_events/news/2013/gappd_launch/en/), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>180</sup> "Diarrheal Disease," World Health Organization, May 2, 2017.

<sup>181</sup> "Diarrheal Disease," World Health Organization, May 2, 2017.

<sup>182</sup> "Immunization programme," UNICEF, <https://www.unicef.org/immunization>, (accessed November 30, 2018).

the majority of the problems related to health issues for children if Member States ensure a quality vaccination process and develop communication plans to educate its citizens about proper hygiene for all children.<sup>183</sup>

### *Pneumonia*

Pneumonia is the leading cause of death for children under five years old.<sup>184</sup> Household air pollution is one of the factors that can double the chances of acquiring pneumonia. Exposure to household air pollution is responsible for 45 percent of all child-deaths in relation to pneumonia.<sup>185</sup> A 2016 WHO estimate states that 600,000 children die from respiratory infections caused from polluted air every year.<sup>186</sup> In order to work against air pollution, it is important to focus on clean energy and low emission power generation.<sup>187</sup> Furthermore, all Member States should work towards the global air quality guidelines set out by WHO.<sup>188</sup>

### *Malaria*

Children under the age of five are the most vulnerable group to the effects of malaria.<sup>189</sup> Every minute, one child dies from malaria.<sup>190</sup> In 2017, the recorded number of children who died from malaria was as high as 266,000.<sup>191</sup> To prevent children from contracting malaria, WHO recommends to either prevent mosquitoes from biting children or to provide vaccines that will suppress infections.<sup>192</sup> The most challenging aspect of dealing with malaria is ensuring access to health facilities that will provide diagnosis and treatment in a timely manner.<sup>193</sup> WHO launched the “high burden to high impact” response plan along with several partners to ensure that support is given to those Member States with the most malaria cases and malaria-related deaths.<sup>194</sup> This impact plan has resulted in a reduction of malaria-related deaths and has contained the spread of the disease.<sup>195</sup>

### *Current Initiatives*

#### *WHO*

WHO works with several other agencies within the UN as well as with other Member States and organizations. They have multiple initiatives, but the main one is to reduce child mortality. The “Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health and Every Woman Every Child” initiative is a massive plan, launched in 2010. This framework was intended to expire in 2015, however, the document was the precursor to the “Every Woman

---

<sup>183</sup> World Health Organization, WHO Strategic Communications Framework for effective communications, 2017, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/communication-framework.pdf>, (accessed November 30, 2018).

<sup>184</sup> “Pneumonia in Children Under Five – UNICEF DATA,” UNICEF, June, 2018, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-health/pneumonia/>, (accessed December 15, 2018).

<sup>185</sup> “Household air pollution and health,” World Health Organization, May 8, 2019, <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/household-air-pollution-and-health>, (accessed December 2, 2018).

<sup>186</sup> “More than 90% of the world’s children breathe toxic air every day,” World Health Organization, October 29, 2018, <http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/29-10-2018-more-than-90-of-the-world%E2%80%99s-children-breathe-toxic-air-every-day>, (accessed December 2, 2018).

<sup>187</sup> “More than 90% of the world’s children breathe toxic air every day,” World Health Organization, October 29, 2018.

<sup>188</sup> “More than 90% of the world’s children breathe toxic air every day,” World Health Organization, October 29, 2018.

<sup>189</sup> World Health Organization, World Malaria Report 2018, Geneva: 2018, <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/275867/9789241565653-eng.pdf?ua=1> (accessed December 2, 2018).

<sup>190</sup> “What are the key health dangers for children?,” World Health Organization, September 2012, <https://www.who.int/features/qa/13/en/>, (accessed December 7, 2018).

<sup>191</sup> World Health Organization, World Malaria Report 2018, <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/275867/9789241565653-eng.pdf?ua=1> (accessed December 2, 2018).

<sup>192</sup> World Health Organization, World Malaria Report 2018, <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/275867/9789241565653-eng.pdf?ua=1> (accessed December 2, 2018).

<sup>193</sup> World Health Organization, World Malaria Report 2018, <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/275867/9789241565653-eng.pdf?ua=1> (accessed December 2, 2018).

<sup>194</sup> “WHO and partners launch a new country-led response to put stalled malaria control efforts back on track,” World Health Organization, November 19, 2018, <http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/19-11-2018-who-and-partners-launch-new-country-led-response-to-put-stalled-malaria-control-efforts-back-on-track>, (accessed December 2, 2018).

<sup>195</sup> “WHO and partners launch a new country-led response to put stalled malaria control efforts back on track,” World Health Organization, November 19, 2018.

Every Child” initiative, which has furthered the primary goals of the Global Initiative.<sup>196</sup> In 2012, the “Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed” report challenged all Member States to reduce child mortality to 20 or fewer deaths per 1000 births.<sup>197</sup> Several publications have been given out to the public on how to treat children during humanitarian emergencies and explained the necessary protocols for children’s healthcare access. In addition, WHO has established a protocol for the implementation of policies and programs that ensures proper follow-up of each Member State’s progress. The most recent initiative by WHO is the “Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization” which was created in 2000 and brings together both public and private sectors to provide vaccines for children living in poor Member States.<sup>198</sup> WHO’s other important goal focused on the importance of vaccination and proper healthcare access, especially for developing Member States.<sup>199</sup> In November 2016, the WHO launched the “Monitoring Visualization Tool for the Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhea”.<sup>200</sup> This initiative enables other Member States and NGOs to have access to each other’s data concerning child mortality.<sup>201</sup> Lastly, the “Nurturing Care Framework for Early Childhood Development” is an initiative in collaboration with UNICEF which guides individuals and groups through the process of proper healthcare during early childhood, with the goal of providing children with better life quality.<sup>202</sup>

### *Every Last Child*

Save the Children launched the “Every Last Child” campaign to reduce child mortality and increase education for children.<sup>203</sup> The main objectives are to eradicate the preventable type of child mortality, promote access to basic quality education for children, and establish a zero-tolerance policy for violence against children.<sup>204</sup> The campaign focuses on reaching every child in the world, including those who are usually excluded from the global progress in health and learning, often seen with children in developing Member States.<sup>205</sup> The reasoning behind this exclusion is a combination of poverty and discrimination.<sup>206</sup> In addition to this, the campaign actively put the searchlight on children from ethnic and religious groups and conflict-affected Member States, who are more often forgotten in the health access discussions.<sup>207</sup> Through the campaign, Save the Children has been able to reach out to more than 282,000 children and deliver 5.6 million life-saving interventions in 27 Member States throughout the world.<sup>208</sup>

In addition to this, several Member States have started different initiatives to promote quality healthcare access to children. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) drafted and proposed the New York

---

<sup>196</sup> “Commitments to Every Woman Every Child’s Global Strategy for Women’s Children’s and Adolescents Health (2016-2030),” World Health Organization.

<sup>197</sup> World Health Organization/The United Nations Children’s Fund, *The Integrated Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhea*, 2013.

<sup>198</sup> “GAVI Alliance,” World Health Organization, <http://www.who.int/life-course/partners/gavi/en/>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>199</sup> World Health Organization/The United Nations Children’s Fund, *The Integrated Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhea*, 2013.

<sup>200</sup> “Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhea (GAPPD) monitoring framework,” World Health Organization, [http://www.who.int/maternal\\_child\\_adolescent/epidemiology/pneumonia-diarrhoea-monitoring/en/](http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/epidemiology/pneumonia-diarrhoea-monitoring/en/), (accessed October 6, 2018).

<sup>201</sup> “Monitoring Progress in Averting Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Deaths,” The World Health Organization.

<sup>202</sup> “Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development: Linking Survive and Thrive to Transform Health and Human Potential,” World Health Organization, [http://www.who.int/maternal\\_child\\_adolescent/child/nurturing-care-framework/en/](http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/child/nurturing-care-framework/en/), (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>203</sup> “About the Campaign,” Save the Children, <https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/about>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>204</sup> “About the Campaign,” Save the Children, <https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/about>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>205</sup> Save the Children, *Every Last Child*, 2016, <https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/sites/campaigns.savethechildren.net/files/report/en.pdf>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>206</sup> Save the Children, *Every Last Child*, 2016, <https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/sites/campaigns.savethechildren.net/files/report/en.pdf>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>207</sup> Save the Children, *Every Last Child*, 2016, <https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/sites/campaigns.savethechildren.net/files/report/en.pdf>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>208</sup> Save the Children, *Every Last Child*, 2016, <https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/sites/campaigns.savethechildren.net/files/report/en.pdf>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

Declaration (A/RES/71/1) to the UN General Assembly to ensure the rights of refugees and immigrants, focusing on children who are migrating.<sup>209</sup> In relation to the New York Declaration, both the United Arab Emirates and Spain are offering free healthcare services to migrant children, as a response to the refugee crisis the world is facing today.<sup>210</sup> Thailand, along with other Member States, is working to achieve universal health coverage and has introduced a grant to help poor families with newborns, as well as healthcare facilities to ensure proper healthcare for all.<sup>211</sup> Libya has introduced free healthcare within their territory, which also includes vaccinations for all children.<sup>212</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

The UN, UNICEF, WHO, and other NGOs, continue to make progress in the area of children's rights. Adequate access to healthcare varies among the different Member States. Preventable diseases stand out as one of the leading causes of early childhood death and access to health facilities remains the biggest challenge overall in the world. With diseases like malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea, it might seem that the majority of healthcare problems affect developing Member States. While that is the case, it does not mean that these illnesses are being addressed for developed Member States. Reports from UN agencies and NGOs demonstrate that proper healthcare personnel, as well as proper knowledge about special conditions, are both necessary for every Member State to improve children's healthcare. Progress has been made with help from campaigns and frameworks set out by international organizations, but another challenge is to ensure that all Member States are able to provide consistent healthcare access when the NGOs leave. Lastly, children's access to healthcare in a humanitarian crisis, or political conflict, is not given the proper attention by the international community as it should. With the sharing of knowledge, properly trained healthcare personnel, and a set framework to help children in times of political or humanitarian crisis, the international community can be more proactive to assist.

### ***Committee Directive***

Ensuring access to adequate healthcare for children is one of the most pressing topics for the international community. Children represent the future workforce and society and therefore ensuring their longevity is a primary concern for all. Underdeveloped Member States are the most at risk for providing inadequate access to healthcare for children. Poverty, lack of education, limited resources, and poor compliance to international protocols are some of the reasons furthering the problem. However, ensuring healthcare access is not enough, States must be able to provide proper health services to fulfill the development needs of children. Underdeveloped Member States also face issues such as political instability, conflict, and humanitarian crisis, all which make ensuring adequate healthcare access much more challenging. Delegates in this committee must revisit the protocols addressing healthcare access for children. Some of the questions a resolution needs to answer are: How do we ensure access to proper healthcare in all Member States? How do we address the differences among access to adequate healthcare in developed Member States and underdeveloped Member States? How can we foster international cooperation to ensure all children have access to proper healthcare? How can we protect children living in conflict-affected areas, as well in areas where there is a risk for a humanitarian disaster? What mechanisms of compliance must be in place to ensure the successful completion of this goal? What is the role of international organizations and how can we leverage their potential to aid Member States in need or at a disadvantage?

---

<sup>209</sup> United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 1, New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, A/RES/71/1, October, 3, 2016, [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/1](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/1).

<sup>210</sup> "Access to Quality Health Care, Education Vital for Improving Children's Well-Being, Speakers Stress as Third Committee Concludes Debate," United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Release, October 11, 2017, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/gashc4202.doc.htm>, (accessed September 27, 2018).

<sup>211</sup> "Access to Quality Health Care, Education Vital for Improving Children's Well-Being, Speakers Stress as Third Committee Concludes Debate," United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Release, October 11, 2017.

<sup>212</sup> "Access to Quality Health Care, Education Vital for Improving Children's Well-Being, Speakers Stress as Third Committee Concludes Debate," United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Release, October 11, 2017.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Topic 1. Challenges of Eliminating Forced Labor

“Forced Labor | Modern Day Slavery.” End Slavery Now, 2018, [www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/forced-labor](http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/forced-labor).

The article provides the official definition and an in-depth discussion of forced labor, concentrating on coerced, physical labor including bonded labor, domestic servitude, and forced sex. The author mainly discusses the U.S. modern slavery, specifically outlining the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. The article contains plenty of factual evidence and data.

“Prevention, Protection, Prosecution Stressed as Security Council Holds Open Debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Forced Labour in Conflict Situations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” United Nations, United Nations, 2017. [www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12751.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12751.doc.htm)

The article describes the need to adopt the “3P” strategy: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution. As the author states, the Security Council held an open debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, and Forced Labor in conflict situations. The article includes the evidence presented at the Council meeting. The article mentions that the 2013 Agenda for Sustainable Development could help break the continuing chain of exploitation, and that the United Nations remains committed to supporting victims and incorporating their views and voices when developing and implementing anti-forced labor and trafficking interventions.

“International Labour Standards on Forced Labour.” World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2013: Case Study: Karoshi: Death from Overwork, [www.ilo.org/global/standards/subjects-covered-by-international-labour-standards/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/subjects-covered-by-international-labour-standards/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm)

The author of the *International Labour Standards on Forced Labour* focuses in the efforts taken by different organizations and institutions to stop human exploitation. The author includes data at the beginning of the piece and a list of relevant ILO instruments. In addition, the author lists pertinent international conventions and provides a detailed examination of each.

“C029 - Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29).” World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2013: Case Study: Karoshi: Death from Overwork, International Labor Organization. 1930. [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB%3A12100%3A0%3A%3ANO%3A%3AP12100\\_ILO\\_CODE%3AC029](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB%3A12100%3A0%3A%3ANO%3A%3AP12100_ILO_CODE%3AC029).

This article is actual official documentation of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the International Labour Organization that took place in 1930. The document states the importance of the adoption of certain proposals with regard to forced or compulsory labour. The provided document has 33 articles and has been ratified and submitted to competent authorities. It also provides a detailed description and date of when the resolution entered into force. This is extremely helpful source that can be used for the reference and data gathering

### Topic 2. Improving the Access to Quality Healthcare for Children

Save the Children, “Health and Nutrition”. <https://www.savethechildren.net/what-we-do/health-and-nutrition>

This article is written by Save the Children and focuses on the main areas and the causes of health problems for children. Diseases like Pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and sepsis are mentioned as the main problems Save The Children fights against. The article mentions the relation to nutrition, explaining that malnutrition is contributing to 45% of all child deaths. As for how to overcome these challenges in child health, the article mentions several different campaigns that have been launched to address this problem and exposes the results of these campaigns.

Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, “Sustainable Development Goal 3”.  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3>

This interactive website provides a lot of knowledge on Sustainable Development Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. It gives an overview of the goal and indicates what the main targets and indicators are. Furthermore, it provides a progress report for each year, publishing the information of the progress for each target within the goal. It further breaks down how the implemented systems and resolutions reached in the different committees within the UN have helped in the process, and what the remaining challenges are.

World Health Organization, “Autism spectrum disorders,” 2017. <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/factsheets/detail/autism-spectrum-disorders>

This report written by the World Health Organization and talks about the key facts regarding the autism spectrum disorders. Additionally, the article addresses the causes, assessment and management of the disease, social and economic impact, and its relationship with human rights and resolutions passed on this topic. Furthermore, it talks about the response from WHO on how to address this topic, which include creating or reshaping policies related to children health and strengthening the different countries’ abilities by focusing on effective strategies that have already given results from it.

World Health Organization, “Diarrheal disease,” 2017. <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/factsheets/detail/diarrhoeal-disease>

This report covers different diseases that can cause diarrhea, such as malnutrition and infection. It also lays out the factors that contribute to this, like drinking contaminated water, poor personal hygiene and lack of vaccination as a few examples. Building on that, the report gives out prevention and treatment examples, and ends with recommendation on a response, including retraining of health workers at a community level and implementing preventive interventions in areas that are more at risk to be affected from diarrhea.

World Health Organization, “Children: reducing mortality,” 2017. <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/factsheets/detail/children-reducing-mortality>

This is one of the newest reports given out by the World Health Organization on child health. This report talks about the problem with early death of a child and the reasons behind it. It focuses on death in children under 5 years, and the link to lack of proper care at the time of childbirth and the following 28 days of life, the so-called neonatal period. The article lays out a table setting the different causes of death, the risk factors for each cause, as well as tips for the prevention and treatment. The report makes recommendations on how the problem can be tackled and what needs to be implemented in countries to prevent early child death from happening. The article links the issue to Sustainable Development Goal 3 and emphasizes the need for a global response from the international community.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, “Education and Healthcare at Risk for Children in Afghanistan,” 2016. <https://unama.unmissions.org/education-and-healthcare-risk-children-afghanistan>

This news article from Kabul lays out the problems with ensuring education and healthcare for children in Afghanistan due to the internal conflicts in the country. It covers a three-year period, from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015. It highlights the vulnerability that children face in a country with insecurity, conflict-related violence, and chronic poverty all-throughout.

The World Bank, “Improving Health Coverage and Access for Mothers, Children and People with Chronic Conditions in the Dominican Republic,” 2017. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2017/04/03/improving-health-coverage-access-dominican-republic>

This report focused on the Dominican Republic (DR), specifically for the years between 2010 and 2016, where the DR was able to expand their healthcare service and decrease health inequities throughout the country. It lays out the approach from the World Bank in how they supported expansion of health insurance, financial incentives and improved service delivery. This project gave a lending hand in a complex health-sector transformation, leading in a short time to positive results. The report exposes what areas benefited, such as from an increased number of completed vaccination scheme for children under 15 months.

United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, “Access to Quality Health Care, Education Vital for Improving Children’s Well-Being, Speakers Stress as Third Committee Concludes Debate,” 2017.  
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/gashc4202.doc.htm>

This meeting coverage is from a United Nations General Assembly Third Committee’s discussion about access to quality healthcare. During this meeting, several Member States stressed how education is important to improve health access and how it also helps by preventing children from facing challenges related to violence. The meeting coverage lays out the different statements from the different states participating in the meeting, and thus lays out the different initiatives that these have taken. Some examples that were mentioned were universal healthcare and inclusive policies that meet children’s varying needs.