**FORUM**: General Assembly

**QUESTION OF**: Measures to Protect Children from Abuse in West Africa

**MAIN SUBMITTER**: Poland

**CO-SUBMITTERS**: DPRK, Ethiopia, France, Libya, Pakistan, Egypt, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Zambia, Australia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Arguing* that child abuse is a significantly serious problem all around the world and is continuously happening in the example form of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has reported that six out of every ten children have experienced physical abuse,

*Acknowledging* that psychosocial support for victims of child abuse is significant because there is a high possibility of victims suffering from the trauma or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD),

*Aware* that child abuse in sub-regions of West Africa has noticeably increased and has reached an alarming rate over 30 years,

*Concerned* that reports from the Togo branch of the African Child Protection and Abuse Prevention Network show that many young women are sexually abused for religious beliefs,

*Underlining* that considering of the solution to the current events that lots of children and kids in West Africa are sent to cities and other countries for trafficking is remarkable,

*Recognizing* specific child abuse in West Africa occurs from excessively harsh child labor and poverty problems,

*Observing* that economically disadvantaged families cannot pay much attention to children’s health, especially mental health, and that 25% of students needed special education in schools since they have struggled due to the experience of child abuse,

*Taking into consideration* that the lack ofproper education due to their livelihood and personal health problems lead to a bigger consequence of child abuse,

1. Calls for an improvement of awareness of education by collaborating with the global companies and organizations that has sufficient impacts on the world society to prevent child abuse causing by unintentionally uneducated actions and to improve the view of learning:
	1. Prepare a service of education within labor by,
		1. offering proper teachers, actual classroom and the content to educate children in West Africa as same as other kids in the world do, getting economical sponsored by companies and organizations, such as UNICEF,
		2. keeping the opportunity of labor by separating learning time and working time, such as dividing morning and afternoon class, to keep children’s income for their livelihood,
	2. Campaign to change adults’, who are already over the age of official proper education, recognition of the importance of education by,
		1. offering opportunities to teach them why education is significant, and encourage them to participate by supplying daily necessities and food which is getting sponsored by organizations,
		2. showing physical examples, for example, invite people who were in the same or similar situations, but overcame the problems they have had, to inspire and affect them that they can also have hope and act it out,
		3. providing a program from the grown-ups, especially for uneducated people who couldn’t get proper education due to their personal causes such as poverty, illnesses, insufficient services, etc., and let them learn what they should learn,
2. Directs to the government to prevent crimes such as child trafficking, sexual harassment (prostitution), and forced labor:
	1. Requesting for strengthened public sanctions that is highly authorized by:
		1. ensuring the power of the public workers, especially occupation that can exert one’s authority on people, such as police, lawyer and judge, to show how injustice is punished and instill alertness,
		2. reinforcing the law that is related to the current issue, for example, make children labor law that includes all workers, no matter what age is, must get paid at least certain amount of money,
		3. enforcing to reduce and stop any intentional harm and harassment, such as physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse, under the age of 18 years old,
		4. strengthening the punishment of child abuse, for example, longer imprisonment, and legislating more laws in all parts about child abuse and adding that no legal compensations are allowed,
	2. Establishing numerous child protection services and programs that includes the idea of preventing physical, emotional, sexual and psychological abuse, which is provided by the government to keep children safe from the crimes and aware of possible cases in ways by:
		1. setting up physically available services no matter it’s online or offline program, to give children the idea of shelter, where they can stay safe, and feel safe,
		2. offering chances of one-to-one online services that requires and guarantees children’s safety and rights of expressing its own feeling without any pressure that’s added to,
		3. employing more public well-educated counselors, offering free services of counseling once a month to the children who is, or was, getting abused,
	3. Enlarging the economic capacity of West Africa to reinforce laws and build services that prevents people from abusing children completely including mental, emotional and sexual harassment by:
		1. asking for financial support to Member states of economically developed countries (MEDC), allowing the governments to enlarge their economic capacity and promote some ways to grow their economy such as creating companies, saving resources for the future, available for tourism, and others,
		2. participating an international meeting with member states, allowing to share the experiences about how the other member states have grown their economy and gain the prior knowledge of the factors that affects economy in a positive and negative ways,
3. Encourages mental health support based on trauma and PTSD, and programs to support the abused children in West Africa to overcome their trauma and support for their future social life:
	1. Supporting the victims of child abuse and their family by counseling, providing free and private counseling assemblies through the Victims of Child Abuse Act (VOCAA), allowing all the victims of child abuse and their family counseling by,
		1. giving contribution of time for counseling to the victims of child abuse and their family, allowing people to have counseling at their preferred time,
		2. establishing programs allowing the victims to overcome their trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) about people which allows the victims to live social life without any reluctance of contact,
		3. creating counseling program that provides children with sufficient mental health care to recover from their trauma of conversing with adults, including interactions of children with adults, which allows the victims of child abuse to overcome their fear about adults,
		4. creating advertisements in a form of podcast or radio advertisements, including the phone number and address, encouraging the victims of child abuse to come, attend the programs or counseling,
4. Creating systems that can easily identify child abuse, protecting children’s identification to identify easily when issues occur, including the positive effects which helps government and public institution to get the exact amount of people:
	1. Starting an annual census, visiting houses and checking people to collect the data and numbers so that it’ll help in case of missing child,
		1. employ public workers for this annual census that is well-trained, also offering opportunities of occupation to the children in West Africa,
		2. having a particular period of time where everyone in the country should go and register for the personal information’s to the country, which will eventually be the part of information of country,
		3. reinforcing the law of keeping record of infants, to restrain the root of child abuse in case of anything that is possible to happen due to the missing report of birth,
5. Recommends to support kids who are struggling through poverty, or any economic difficulty because of the labor:
6. Receiving donations from other companies and organizations, such as UNICEF, World vision and more by:
	1. starting partnerships with NGOs (non-governmental organizations) that specialize in child protection to implement programs and provide resources,
	2. collaborating with the companies within the product that also represents the child abuse, donating the profits that is generated from the products of goods to kids and families who are struggling,
7. Collecting more taxes based on the income rate, for example, collect more taxes from riches, to help poor people due to the fairness of the social level of people,
8. Establishing regular workshops and training sessions to attract more people to get interested in these majors or jobs in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. adding these kinds of workshops to club stations at schools to increase the attention and opportunity that is given to the children,
	2. posting videos and images on social media can raise awareness of child abuse, allowing early prevention of possible child abuse,
9. Argues for better treatment for disabled kids in West Africa, who are neglected on the streets, getting divided attention from their guardians, and not guaranteed their rights:
10. Starting a promotion for hygienic primary prevention so that this won’t lead to any severe secondary affection by:
	1. getting helps from World Health Organization (WHO), specifically in the department that manages low hygiene in the countries,
	2. urging programs that uses hand sanitizers instead of water due to the lack of water, while still emphasize the importance of hygiene,
	3. creating a system where the citizens or people in the sub-regions in West Africa can pick up trash and exchange the trash with small amounts of money, for example, one plastic bottle and 170 West African CFA Franc, the currency of the sub-regions of West Africa, which are the same value as 2 Renminbi (RMB),
11. Offering a program of medical services, which is generally helpful to everyone, in such ways:
	1. therapizing with the supports of the government or National Institute of Mental Health (NIH),
	2. creating monthly working service done by people, allowing constant care for the disabled children,
	3. letting in trade of working officially, allowing advanced medical cares for disabled children,
12. Creating spaces where the disabled children can rest and settle, and asking companies such as World Hope International (WHI) and Handicap International (HI) for economic and educational support, such as but not limited to:
	1. building care centers, such as the SOS Children’s village, which has already been established in West Africa, but very few of them, where disabled kids can live with guardian support and won’t feel frustrated about their living conditions,
	2. creating or importing some necessities and non-reusable goods, or the instant foods, that allows the disabled children to easily cook and eat them by selves, and those goods would be imported around the small houses where disabled children lives,
13. Recommends encouraging the social campaigns, allowing the government to gain enough money to construct the programs for the victims of child abuse to account for the stereotype of child abuse and its victims:

Including the local governments to create the public activities or events that accounts for misery of the victims of child abuse,

creating public service programs or advertisements that accounts for the reality of the victims of child abuse, addressing their poor lifestyles and how the child abuse affected their whole life negatively, and adding any comments for need of donation, for example, establishing community campaigns through the local governments, where quicker and easier donations by citizens or people could be made,

Bringing the aspect of society into service to address the stereotypes of victims of social media, and asking for donations for the victims of child abuse,

creating electronical advertisements such as videos, that includes the lifestyle of the victims of child abuse, and their real-life stories under their permissions and anonymity, keeping the victims’ secure privacy, and expected to elicit the empathy of the people who sees the advertisement,

designing physical posters or placards and placing them around the areas with relatively higher population density, letting posters seen by more people, including the severity of child abuse and how they can affect the children,

1. Requesting to research the causes of child abuse that take place in West Africa, to tell the significance of being informed of reasons of the problem, and for further counterplans for continuously arising situations:
2. Suggesting an annual government identification should be essential for children’s health wellbeing, incorporating and recording positive effects and negative effects such as but not limited to,
3. Recording every child’s health state in the country, such as physical and mental status to make sure that children are not experiencing abuse in any sort of way and to cope with the problem if happens as fast as possible,
4. Improving online research to analyze the reasons and causes to make sure that government is aware of this situation to get better result:
	1. suggesting asking the new report to broadcast and account for the severity of child abuse, especially the global and famous news companies inside each country or member states, allowing the governments to realize the severity of child abuse happening inside the sub-regions,
	2. conducting surveys to children who experienced abuse and address the result of the survey to the government, which lets the government to research and discuss based on the results, leading to find the resolutions of child abuse in the sub-regions.