**FORUM:** General Assembly

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

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** Afghanistan

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Australia, Brazil, Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Haiti, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom

General Assembly,

*Alarmed by* the grave child abuse and the increase of trafficking, sexual abuse, etc. in the regions of West Africa,

*Noting* the steady increase child abuse over the past 30 years despite the efforts of the United Nations and sovereign governments,

*Fully aware* of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child’s response to injustice and crimes that acted against children,

*Anxious of* the poor economic conditions of sub-regions that prevents them from creating laws and services that the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child seeks to provide,

*Having examined* the sexual abuse between a minor and an adult in the sub-regions of Africa both urban and suburban centers,

*Taking into consideration* the performance of adolescent rituals taking place in urban areas of Ghana which includes young girls engaging in sexual activity,

*Taking note of* cross border collaboration to create solutions for child trafficking by establishing cross border law enforcement in several countries,

*Welcoming* the community-based rehabilitation which was designed to empower children with disabilities and families though accessible services,

1. Strongly advises creating a safe environment in West Africa for minors by applying force and protection for those in need but not limited to:
	1. Deploying UN Peacekeepers to urban and suburban centers of West Africa to prevent child trafficking and other forms of child abuse,
		1. Providing UN Peacekeepers in reach to the needed sectors of West Africa,
		2. Focusing on protecting minors rather than being focused on trying to eliminate those inflicting harm,
		3. Acting as a symbol of a guardian/advisors for minors in urban centers rather than a direct force or opposition to those inflicting harm to pressure those trying to inflict harm;
	2. Creating more police/cadet force to counter this abuse in urban centers,
		1. Asking United Nations to lend resources to counter child abuse, international/UN fund will come in play in creating these forces,
		2. Building more police stations in urban centers with strong concentration of child abuse, labor, and trafficking;
2. Urges the nations of West African regions to strengthen border security on freeways and ports to regulate and stop child trafficking from both on land and sea,
	1. Deploying national guards that guard ports and major freeways in order to regulate and stop child trafficking,
		1. Suggesting United Nations to fund the West Africa nations to support the national guards, but not foreign guards due to its substantial risk of damage,
		2. Focusing on stopping child trafficking through sea,
		3. Creating checkpoints to inspect suspicious vehicles and minimize child trafficking through land;
	2. Recommends United Nations to send minimal number of Peacekeepers to both train and minimize corruption within the national guard
	3. Strengthening interborder forces to locate and minimize child trafficking and child abuse,
		1. Combine UN Peacekeeper and local government to create this interborder forces,
		2. Arresting convicted criminals caught by the interborder forces and bring them to the international court of justice;
3. Encourages member states in the West African region to establish and enhance support systems for child abuse victims to ensure their safety, and recovery through methods such as but not limited to:
	1. Developing easily accessible shelters specifically for children that provides safe environment and medical services, using United Nations’ funds
	2. Creating child-friendly report systems that children easily access in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Telephone boxes that connect calls directly to the police,
		2. Posters that show how to report their situation;
	3. Providing legal aid services to help children and ensure their rights are protected throughout the judicial process,
	4. Providing physical and mental support for survivors of sexual abuse by offering free or reduced-cost therapy,
		1. Ensuring that therapy, both physical and mental, helps victims feel safer and more prepared for life,
		2. Building victims' confidence and readiness to reintegrate into society;
4. Supports West African states to provide educational services for free and inform them the seriousness of the situation, while also informing them countermeasures of being abused through ways such as but not limited to:
	1. Providing educational services that supplement lack of education of children in West Africa through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Feeling the gravity of child abuse in West Africa, reducing the number of cases by taking child abuse seriously,
		2. Preventing child abuse from becoming a big problem in the future as West African children recognize that child abuse is wrong and should not happen;
	2. Responding well to strangers by fully learning how to cope with situations such as abuse based on the education provided by Brazil through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Giving enough information for West African children in Brazil getting West African children used to how to cope by providing consistent prevention and coping mechanisms,
		2. Reducing harm by informing West African children of what they should not do when the situation arises;
	3. Calling upon member states in the West African region to implement educational programs in schools aimed at teaching children about their rights, recognizing signs of abuse, and understanding the steps to seek help in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Providing education for the children teaching the signs of abuse and guides to report their situations, when necessary,
		2. Establishing reporting system within school that the children can safely use to report abuses or violations they are experiencing,
		3. Creating campaigns to discourage child abuse led by children in schools in ways such as use of social media, posters, and banners;
	4. Calling upon West African educational institutions to accommodate children with disabilities by:
		1. Establishing more learning facilities for disabled children,
		2. Increasing access to education for disabled children to enhance future economic prospects,
		3. Integrating disabled children into primary and secondary schools,
		4. Providing a cost-effective solution to ensure that disabled children receive education,
		5. Equipping disabled children with the general knowledge needed to lead fulfilling lives;
5. Urges West African member states to create and strengthen child protection laws that are clearly defined and criminalize all forms of child abuse, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, imposing severe penalties on offenders through ways such as but not limited to:
	1. Strengthening child abuse laws to the extent that people do not consider laws easy, and let them know that it is not a simple matter through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Reducing crime rates by showing that the law is not weak with heavy punishment such as extended imprisonment,
		2. Making West Africans aware that children are important and should be treated with care under the enhanced laws,
		3. Increasing people's fear of the law and the value of children in West Africa makes it difficult to adults exploit them;
	2. Establishing a special court with judges specifically trained to oversee child abuse cases by involving experts of the child abuse,
		1. Establish a world court form the United Nations (UN),
		2. Invite international judges in the court;
	3. Communicating with NGO’s (non-government organization), such as CRIN (Child Right Internation Network) and DCI (Defense for Children International) to create a feasible regulation that clearly indicates the boundaries of sexual harassment,
		1. Communicating with NGO such as CRIN (Child Right Internation Network) and DCI (Defense for Children International) and local governments to provide humanitarian assistance for child who are affected by child trafficking in South Africa,
		2. Further establishing an action team for eradicating child trafficking stronghold;
6. Encourages Brazil to share best practices and technical expertise on reducing child labor and abuse through social programs like Bolsa Família (Family Allowance Program) which offers financial support to low-income family's contingent on school attendance and health checkups through ways such as but not limited to:
	1. Collaborating with Brazilian and West African governments and NGOs to implement similar programs that address the economic factors contributing to child abuse and exploitation through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Addressing the labor exploitation problem due to the West African children's economic problems,
		2. Running programs to reduce the chance of physical abuse from exposure to unhealthy environments;
	2. Combatting child marriage and lack of sexual abuse and educational opportunities in West Africa with cash aid programs such as Brazil's Bolsa Família through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. With the help of the program, financial pressure prevents some families from marrying their daughters at an early age,
		2. Eliminating the risk of neglect or exposure to crime or forced labor to survive on the streets, as financial aid gives West African children the opportunity to receive education;
7. Proposes local governments, religious leaders, and NGOs to collaborate and launch community campaigns to help cease child abuse by highlighting the importance of preventing such abuse from children but not limited to:
	1. Asking the governments and NGOs to work together to launch educational campaigns to inform the community of the dangers and harms of child abuse through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Improving community awareness of child abuse by conducting educational campaigns,
		2. Making the view on child abuse serious by creating an opportunity for it to be properly recognized,
		3. Proposing high-ranking leaders in West African countries to participate in the campaign, increasing the effectiveness of the campaign;
	2. Establishing official accounts in social media,
		1. Establish an official government YouTube account for making video that popularizes child abuse prevention knowledge and information about promoting citizens to support children,
		2. Create an official TikTok account that popularizes child abuse is rampant in South Africa.