FORUM: Human Rights Council

QUESTION OF: Measures to Combat Exploitative Child Labor in Developing Nations

MAIN-SUBMITTED BY: Egypt

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Colombia, Mexico, Chile, India, Ecuador, Indonesia, France

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and specifically Article 26 regarding the right to education,

Deeply concerned by the insurmountable number of children forced into hazardous working environments within developing economies,

Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation between governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs),

Recognizing the absence of normal governance and the requirements for enforcement of all laws and regulations regarding the issue of child labor,

Concerned about the ultimately low employment rate and lack of highly skilled workers caused by the absence of education during the period of schooling,

1. Encourages developed countries to cooperate with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and local governments to improve access to education for exploited children such as but not limited to:
    a) Providing financial assistance to low-income families such as but not limited to:
        i. Providing school-related financial support to families with children attending school regularly,
        ii. Providing transportation assistance for children who live far from school,
        iii. Prioritizing rural communities with limited access to education,
        iv. Providing additional financial support to families who are facing unexpected economic difficulties,
    b) Providing a variety of books in communities' libraries that all children can read for free,
    c) Expanding access to quality education, especially in rural communities such as but not limited to:
        i. Providing funding to improve schools in less developed, underserved communities,
        ii. Providing learning materials and school meal programs for free,

d) Monitoring the effectiveness of educational support programs such as but not limited to:
    i. Checking school attendance rates of children receiving financial assistance,
    ii. Conducting annual evaluations to identify whether educational support has excluded children from exploitative labor,
    iii. Adjusting financial assistance and educational programs based on annual evaluation results;

2. Encourages member states to support families that have previously suffered with child labor through financial aids through ways such as, but not limited to:
    a) Using a portion of the nation's taxes and other voluntary donors are directed to helping these families by:
        i. Removing burdens from fees caused by education, such as transportation fees, meal fees,
        ii. Directly giving money to households so that they can buy necessities like food and housing,
    b) Encouraging international organizations to work with the local government to implement annual monitoring and surveys to allocate the necessary amount of money to families through ways including:
        i. Collaborate with associated NGOs for monitoring,
        ii. Collaborate with multinational corporations for international funds and aids,
        iii. Requesting MEDCs for financial aid,
        iv. Collaborating with local community programs;

3. Urges all member states to establish a system to assist children without proper guardians in finding suitable families and guardians following guidelines including:
    a) Find a suitable family for the child with the ability to do so, which also has an incentive or eagerness to do so through:
        i. Find a close relative to the child and get their consent,
        ii. Ask suitable families using surveys and legal forms,
        iii. Assign orphans to foster agencies to assist them in finding a suitable family,
    b) Allocate inspectors to check whether the foster family supports the child through annual inspections through ways such as but not limited to:
        i. Checking whether the family needs financial support where the child will either switch to a different foster family or get the support of the funds provided, depending on the child's will,

ii. Asking the child in person without interference whether they are getting the correct treatment and able to attend school regularly without abuse or labor;

4. Supports the physical and mental health treatment of children who were previously subjected to hazardous child labor to facilitate their recovery from various injuries through ways such as, but not limited to:
    a) Extending health coverage for injuries acquired during hazardous labor, including immediate conditions and chronic illnesses, through ways such as, but not limited to:
        i. Setting up hospitals equipped with medical supplies that can effectively treat physical injuries obtained through years of premature labor that children can easily access,
        ii. Providing treatments specifically for chronic illnesses that may cause a profound threat to one's health,
    b) Tending to children's mental wellbeing, aiming to ease emotional trauma from early exposure to hazardous work conditions through ways such as but not limited to:
        i. Providing therapy treatments guided by certified therapists from organizations such as the UN to help children cope with,
        ii. Refraining from enforcing punishments for a lack of certain traits or capacities lost due to trauma and long-term emotional effects from child labor;

5. Urges Member States to increase labor inspections run by the governments with the help of local and international organizations in high-risk areas by:
    a) Inviting the ILO, UNICEF and relevant NGOs, upon request and within available resources, to assist participating governments with inspector training and the design of referral procedures in ways such as but not limited to:
        i. Equipment and specialization of inspection teams to identify indicators of forced child labor and hazardous working conditions through regularly organizing workshops on condition inspections and documenting violations,
        ii. Equipment and specialization of inspection teams to identify indicators of forced child labor and hazardous working conditions through regularly organizing workshop on condition inspections and documenting violations,
        iii. Establish rapid-response channels by connecting labor inspectors to local child protection authorities and emergency healthcare providers,
    b) Strengthening existing national monitoring systems by:
        i. Supporting regular inspections in industries with high risk such as agriculture and mining,

ii. Developing anonymous reporting systems and hotlines for suspected child labor violations,
iii. Creating accessible reporting channels for citizens to report suspected child labor in real-time,
iv. Encouraging schools and local communities to report child labor immediately;

6. Urges Member States to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of national child labor laws and relevant international labor standards, including International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 138 and Convention No. 182, and to prohibit hazardous work for children below 15 years of age through ways such as but not limited to:
    a) Strengthening the implementation and enforcement of national child labor law in different branches of the government, such as but not limited to:
        i. Establishing a sector in government with the purpose in a reporting system and protection reporters,
        ii. Revising national child labor laws related to child labor to align with ILO convention standards,
    b) Prohibiting the employment of minors aged under 18 in hazardous work, through ways such as, but not limited to:
        i. The list of hazardous occupations is regularly updated according to ILO standards, and employment in occupations included,
        ii. Press penalties in inspected companies in child labor recruitment,

7. Calls upon all member states to strengthen and establish an international framework that ensures the data transparency of supply chains to protect against the unethical use of child labor, from raw material export to manufacturing through ways such as, but not limited to:
    a) Combining screening capabilities with inherent risk assessments in the capability of assessing aspects including:
        i. Supplier risk screening,
        ii. Age verification at recruitment,
        iii. Supply-chain mapping,
        iv. Data and media monitoring,
    b) Establishing collaboration with multinational corporations to strengthen supply chain transparency including but not limited to:
        i. Transnational cooperation including the United Nations (UN) and the World Bank,
        ii. Associated Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), including the ILO, Open Supply Hub, and Fair Labor Association (FLA),

c) Conducting regular human-rights risks assessment across supply chains according to:
    i. Risk levels determined through a process of screening capabilities,
    ii. High-risk sectors, especially the raw-material process of the supply chain such as cocoa, coffee, and textiles;

8. Asks all member states to heighten public awareness and dismantle the culture normalization of exploitative child labor through comprehensive education mechanisms such as:
    a) Leveraging digital media and social media platforms (including Instagram and Facebook) to target rural populations and younger demographics,
    b) Expanding traditional broadcasting and visual arts engagement by:
        i. Encouraging national film boards and independent production houses to produce dramas that vividly portray the consequences of exploitative child labor,
        ii. Recommending that state media broadcasters and private news networks incorporate dedicated investigative reports, public service announcements, and regular programming addressing labour rights;

9. Further urges member states and international bodies to combat the root economic causes of child labor in vulnerable communities through targeted actions, including:
    a) Supporting the hosting of international fundraisers to aid low-income families and children trapped in child labor due to economic hardship,
    b) Collaborating with specialized international organizations and non-governmental ones to deploy localized, hands-on outreach to remote areas by:
        i. Empowering community programs, local cooperatives, and rural educators to serve as frontline monitors and educational advocates,
        ii. Accepting expertise from developed nations on practical methods to address the root causes of child labor.