



EXPERTS' HANDBOOK



**UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

INDEX



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ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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ABOUT THE SMMUN 2025



The **Southeast Mexican Model United Nations (SMMUN)** is a model united nations made by and for young people who are interested in topics regarding international law, international relations, human rights and everything related to the **United Nations**. It has the purpose of giving participants a chance to experiment the work sessions held by the United Nations in real life, treating with topics of the utmost international relevance, while allowing participants to develop leadership abilities, negotiation, diplomacy, team work, research, among others.

After its success in the year 2016, annual editions were carried out of the Southeast Mexican Model United Nations in Mérida, Yucatán. Every young person from 12 to 26 years old is invited to participate in the event that'll be the highest representative of youth sentiment of the United Nations in southeast Mexico.

As **youth**, we have to dare to take space and act for what we consider right, be the future leaders, start transforming the world we know and keep building a legacy of changes and paving the way so, we can all grow without obstacles. Dare to live this experience to the maximum, if you're scared, do it scared, but don't let this dream go by.

Don't forget that the legacy of the SMMUN is to leave a mark, learn and inspire.

Thank you for being part of the **Legacy of Leaders**.
Thanks to you the **SMMUN** exists.

A part of us stays in the forum and we leave changed because your voices change the world.

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LETTER FROM *General* SECRETARIAT

Dear experts,

We have to confess that you being here and being part of this edition feels like a hug to the heart, like feeling you know someone even if you've never seen them and it's the first time you hear their name, but without any doubt, you know it's not the last time, because there's a reason.

Now that we're getting to know each other, we want to tell you a secret (and the reason why we feel this closeness). **"Dreamers recognise one another"**, so if you're here, trust that you have lots to share with every single one of the people you're meeting, but also a lot to learn from them. Being able to harmonize with more brave people that dare to be the people they want to be, but you won't do it by yourself, you'll do it with the people that believe in the magic of coinciding and in the beauty of their dreams. **We invite you to take us seriously and try it yourself!**

Saying we're excited to see the model become a reality doesn't do justice to how we feel, but truthfully, it's not just coming from us, but also your whole chair, as well as the whole organizing committee that with much love and dedication we've looked for so this experience is completely unforgettable. Some advice? Enjoy it. A request, petition or a favour? **Enjoy it!**



Once we've shared secrets and advices, we have to warn you, **did you know that once the model ends, you along with us will be taking part of the legacy?** and when we say legacy, we mean that there's been nine years since the adventure began, a legacy that has been built alongside friendships that became family, building a better world. Because the SMMUN has always characterized itself for being more than a model, it has always looked to create a space that feels human, special and magical, but if we're honest, you have to live it to understand it and you'll perfectly know what we express.

Before saying goodbye (**momentarily**), we want to tell you that we are prepared to celebrate and commemorate a decade of successes, hand to hand with the **organizing committee** and chair people; and we want you to be a fundamental part of this celebration. We want you to, as well as us, enjoy every moment, as small as it is because you'll take from here **unforgettable memories**.

✨ ✨ ✨  *Eternally grateful*

Galilea Silva and Andrea Arreola
General Secretariat

SMMUN 2025: LEGACY OF LEADERS



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LETTER FROM *Academic* SECRETARIAT

Dear experts,

We warmly welcome you to the SMMUN 2025: Legacy of leaders and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child! We are proud of you being part of the first decade of our Model and we are so illusioned that you're part of it. The SMMUN has always been characterised for being an space where all people are welcomed, every idea is taken into account and every dream is potencialized until it becomes reality; for this reason, we also want to thank you for trusting and having the courage of living this experience that we are sure will be wonderful.

Maybe you don't know us, but we are the **Academic Secretariat, Faina and Fernando**, the people in charge of selecting, training and guiding **the chair people** for more than ten months during this whole preparation process before reaching sessions' days. It's really important for us that you know that you also count on our full support and advice whenever you need it and that any situation, comment, suggestion or question that you wish to share with us we will always be happy to offer you our help.

This year, we have very dearly designed **ten committees** that not only conmenmorate the past 10 editions, but that honor stories, experiences and moments that have defined the SMMUN for the past decade. Each of these committees is innovative, novel and creative, reflecting the values and causes that have been the heart of this model since its first edition. Through For Education, For Children, For Development, For Peace, For Women, For Health, For Youth, For Diversity, For Equality and Legacy of Leaders, we're looking to pay homage to everything we have built together, making sure each committee is a space for learning, reflection and action.

By diving into this model, we invite you to take advantage of every second of this experience. Allow yourself to question, debate, learn and, above all, grow. This is a space where challenges become opportunities and where every argument that you expose will have the power to leave mark on those listening to you. Don't be afraid to be wrong because every mistake is a lesson and every lesson is a step closer to the leadership that you're building.

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With that said, during these months we've been able to see the growth of the people that will accompany you during this experience and we're witness of the evolution that your chair people have had and how they've been preparing vastly to receive you with open arms and give you an unforgettable experience; and even if this is your first Model United Nations or if you have participated in one before, rest assured that your chair people are the family that has organized this committee for you with all their love, no matter if this was your first option or not. Things happen for a reason and you're meant for great things. never doubt what's waiting for you and always trust the process.

We want to remind you that the SMMUN is also the space to **forge ties, to discover new perspectives** and to find people that **share your passion for changing the world**. Some of the most memorable moments of this experience don't occur in the formality of debates, but in the moments of companionship, in the shared laughter and in the conversations that you'll take for the rest of your life.

Wholeheartedly, we wish you a **revolutionary transformative and inspiring adventure**. That you can find in the SMMUN that ideal space to be heard, that you discover new friendships and that you find a world where you're capable of dreaming as big as every one of the people that have been through this model. Our biggest reward will be knowing that you will end up with a smile and that you can come back to the SMMUN or to other models. The best experiences begin here, the magic happens here and we hope your passage through the **model of dreamers** becomes the continuation or construction of your biggest dreams and that it can take you to new places where you can make the most of all your potential.

In this **tenth edition** of the SMMUN, you are part fo something bigger than a debate. You are part of a community and of a history that **keeps being written with you...**

✨📧 *With great enthusiasm,*

Faina Couch and Fernando Sánchez
Academic Secretariat

SMMUN 2025: LEGACY OF LEADERS





CHAIR LETTER

Dear experts,

It is with great enthusiasm, we are thankful that you are here and we warmly welcome you to the **Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**, of the Southern Mexican Model of the United Nations. This forum is designed to encourage reflection and debate on critical issues related to children's rights within a framework of diplomacy and international cooperation. We hope you take this with all the strength and motivation after all you are creating a **legacy of leaders**.

CRC focuses on promoting the well being, protection, and development of children worldwide, guided by the principles of **the Convention on the Rights of the Child**. Throughout this model, you will represent different international experts, assuming the role of diplomats to defend positions, negotiate agreements, and propose solutions aimed at benefiting children globally. Do not be afraid of raising your voice here, all the contributions are valid and appreciated.

The work of the experts involves thoroughly researching the policies, perspectives, and backgrounds of the countries they represent to actively participate in formal and informal debates, draft working papers, and develop consensual resolutions that reflect collective efforts.

If there are questions no doubt to ask us, we will be happy to help you and also not be afraid of making mistakes, we are all human, it is natural. And if you do not make mistakes how do you learn?

We are pleased to introduce the members of the Directive Chair, who will lead and facilitate this experience:

- **Karla Lara**, as President of the Committee, will chair the sessions, ensure adherence to the rules of procedure, and guarantee an orderly and productive debate.
- **Gustavo González**, in his role as Moderator, will facilitate communication between delegates and the Board, ensuring that every voice is heard and the debate remains inclusive and efficient.
- **Ariel Puerto**, in his role as Conference Officer, will be responsible for recording interventions, managing official documents, and supporting the overall organization of the committee.
- **Mons Lizárraga**, as Room Officer, will oversee the internal dynamics, ensuring the smooth functioning of the committee and providing necessary support to the delegates.

We are confident that this experience will not only enhance your knowledge but also strengthen your personal skills and develop your potential!

The forum is almost open delegates, are you ready? We are excited to meet you and see all your work. We can not wait to meet you and start this wonderful experience.

Sincerely

Karla ,Gustavo, Ariel and Mons



COMMITTEE'S DESCRIPTION



Meet United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child!

In 1989, 196 countries signed up to the UNCRC. This event made a historic commitment to the world's children by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (an international agreement on childhood.) It's become the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and has helped transform children's lives around the world. The CRC committee meets three times a year at its headquarters in Palais Wilson in Switzerland. On the other hand it has been created to make a promise to every child to protect and fulfill their rights, by adopting an international legal framework.

The Committee is made up of eighteen independent experts, elected by the States party to the Convention. They are elected for four years and eligible for one reelection, on the basis of equitable geographic distribution, also CRC have 18 independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its States parties.

It is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the member states to the Convention and its two Optional Protocols.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is a treaty body (The human rights treaty bodies are committees of independent experts that monitor implementation of the core international human rights treaties). Each State party to a treaty has an obligation to take steps to ensure that everyone in the State can enjoy the rights set out in the treaty. of the Division of Treaties of Human Rights which is supervised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights which is a sub representative of the UN Secretariat.

A difficult but true reality is that the countries tend to have higher statistics of children suffering from abuse in these areas as the times passes by, which is a major preoccupation and focus of this committee.

Out of these subjects in most cases, the agenda of CRC is based on different requests that are brought to the committee's attention through reports, complaints, and others. These ones are taken into consideration regarding the violation of children's rights and its scale, this can be in the context of an armed conflict or by a report of these violations.

Some of the faculties of the CRC are:

I. **Reviewing of State Reports:** reviewing reports submitted by member states on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

II. **General Comments:** address general comments to interpret and clarify the provisions of the convention and its optional protocols.

III. **Monitoring Optional Protocols:** monitors the implementation of the three optional protocols:

- Optional Protocol on the sale of Children (17 articles)
- Optional Protocol on the Children in armed conflict (13 articles)
- Optional Protocol on communications procedure (24 articles)

considers individual complaints

V. **Engaging with Other Bodies:** collaborate with other UN bodies, specialized agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to promote the implementation of the Convention and its protocols.

VI. **Country Visits:** conducting visits to member states to monitor the implementation of children's rights directly.

VII. **Recommendations:** recommendations to member states, identifying areas of concern and suggesting measures for improvement.

VIII. **Examine reports:** examine and receive complaints and reports from children.

In its reviews, the Committee provides implementation and improvement recommendations to each individual State, which it will review the next time the country is examined. It urges all levels of government to use the Convention as a guide in policy-making and legislation, to:

- Develop a comprehensive national agenda
- Develop permanent bodies or mechanisms to promote coordination, monitoring and evaluation of activities
- Ensure that all legislation is fully compatible with the Convention and, if applicable the Optional Protocols,
- Make children visible in policy development processes throughout government by introducing child impact assessments;
- Analyze government spending to determine the portion of public funds spent on children and to ensure that these resources are being used effectively;
- Ensure that sufficient data are collected and used to improve the situation of all children in each jurisdiction;
- Raise awareness and disseminate information on the Convention and the Optional Protocols by providing training to all those involved in government policy-making and working with or for children;
- Involve civil society (including children themselves) in the process of implementing and raising awareness of child rights; and Set up independent national offices (ombudspersons, commissions, focal points within national human rights institutions, or other institutions) to promote and protect children's rights.

The CRC throughout the years has made a significant impact and left a significant mark and made a difference in many children's civil and political economic, social and cultural rights.

It's important to clarify that The Convention on the Rights of the Child nowadays is motivating governments to evaluate laws, policies, to ensure and improve the access to healthcare and nutrition for children. It has strengthened protections against violence, exploitation, and helped to encourage greater participation of children in societal matters, amplifying their voices.



EXPERTS



1 BRAGI GUDBRANDSSON

Specialization: Child protection and children's rights.

Country: Iceland.

Career:

- Former Director General of the Icelandic Government Agency for Child Protection (1995–2018).
- Leading expert on implementing the Barnahus model across Europe.
- Member of the Lanzarote Committee, monitoring the Convention on Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
- Founding member of Save the Children in Iceland.
- Has drafted recommendations and conventions on child protection in Europe



2 ROSARIA ISABEL CORREA PULICE

Specialization: Procedural law and children's rights.

Country: Panama.

Career:

- Professor of Procedural Law at the University of Panama.
- Director of programs related to child protection.
- Magistrate of the Superior Court for Children and Adolescents.
- Director of the National Secretariat for Childhood, Adolescence, and Family.
- Promoted adoption and child protection law.



3 RINCHEN CHOPHEL

Specialization: Human rights, public health, and children's rights.

Country: Bhutan.

Career:

- Director General of SAIEVAC, leading regional strategies to end violence against children in South Asia.
- Promoted child participation and strengthened cooperation networks.
- Drafted legal reforms and created institutions in Bhutan to protect women and children.
- Promoted child-friendly justice and law enforcement procedures.



4 MARY BELOFF

Specialization: Juvenile justice and children's rights.

Country: Argentina.

Career:

- Professor at the University of Buenos Aires.
- General Prosecutor in human rights matters.
- Consultant for UNICEF and other international organizations on juvenile justice and child protection.
- Drafted juvenile justice legislation across Latin America.
- Trained judges and prosecutors on children's rights.



5 SUZANNE AHO

Specialization: Child health and girls' rights.

Country: Togo.

Career:

- Consultant on child rights and health.
- Worked to protect girls from genital mutilation and other harmful practices.
- Promoted girls' education.
- Collaborates with NGOs and government structures for child protection.



6 THUWAYBA AL BARWANI

Specialization: Education and children's rights.

Country: Oman.

Career:

- Former Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Sultan Qaboos University.
- Founder of educational programs and early intervention services for children with disabilities.
- Worked closely with UNICEF.
- Chaired the Omani CRC committee, advocating for children's rights.



7 FAITH MARSHALL-HARRIS

Specialization: Family law, corporate law, children's rights.

Country: Barbados.

Career:

- Attorney-at-Law and Legal Consultant with a focus on family law and corporate law, representing children and families, many pro bono.
- UNICEF Children's Champion since 2012, advocating for children's rights.
- Chairman of the National Committee Monitoring the Rights of the Child, overseeing the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Barbados.
- Former Magistrate of the Juvenile Court (2006-2012), focusing on restorative justice and rehabilitation for children.
- Conducts workshops on child rights and lectures to various community sectors.



8 ZARA RATOU

Specialization: Child protection, early childhood development.

Country: Chad.

Career:

- Director of Childhood and Coordinator of the Child Protection Program at the Ministry of Women, Early Childhood Protection in Chad.
- Focuses on combating the use and recruitment of children by armed forces, ensuring their withdrawal and reintegration.
- Develops policies for the protection and well-being of children in conflict situations and those deprived of special protection.
- Coordinates national efforts against harmful traditional practices and works with international organizations, refugee camps, and displaced populations.
- Extensive experience with UNICEF in health communication, project monitoring, and evaluation.



9 ANN SKELTON

Specialization: Child law, children's rights, education law.

Country: South Africa.

Career:

- Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria, holding the UNESCO Chair in Education Law in Africa.
- Director of the Centre for Child Law, advocating for children's rights through litigation, law reform, and research.
- Played a key role in drafting South Africa's Child Justice Act (2008) and Children's Act (2005).
- Recognized globally as an expert in children's rights, providing input to UN bodies and advising governments on child-related legislation.
- Awarded the Honorary World's Children's Prize by the Queen of Sweden in 2012.



10 HYND AYOUBI IDRISSE

Specialization: Human rights, children's rights, family law.

Country: Morocco.

Career:

- Professor of Law at the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences in Rabat, Morocco.
- Former Vice Dean in charge of scientific research at the Faculty of Law, Rabat (2005-2009).



- Involved in human rights advocacy, particularly in the protection of children's rights in Morocco.
- Contributed to the simplification and translation of legal documents related to the Family Code.
- Member of the UNESCO Chair "Women and their Rights" and the Moroccan Center for Studies and Research on Legal Professions.



11 LUIS PEDERNEIRA

Specialization: Children's rights, human rights.

Country: Uruguay.

Career:

- Currently serving a second term as an Independent Expert on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Former President of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2019-2021), being the first Latin American and Spanish-speaking president.
- Led the adoption of General Comments No. 24 on "Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice" and No. 25 on "Children's Rights in the Digital Environment."
- Member of the Academic Committee for the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Juvenile Justice at the University of Geneva.
- Extensive experience in monitoring juvenile justice systems, specifically working against torture in detention centers for minors



12 VELINA TODOROVA

Specialization: Civil and family law, children's rights.

Country: Bulgaria.

Career:

- Associate Professor at the University of Plovdiv and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, specializing in civil and family law and children's rights.
- Former Deputy Minister of Justice (2011-2013), overseeing international child protection, adoption, and juvenile justice reform.
- Involved in drafting major Bulgarian legislation on child protection, family law, domestic violence, and juvenile justice.
- Member of the Experts' Committee on the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child and serves on the editorial advisory board of the International Journal on the Rights of the Child.
- Awarded by the President of Bulgaria and the State Agency for Child Protection for her contributions to child rights



13 BENOIT VAN KEIRSBILCK

Specialization: Children's rights, juvenile justice, socio-legal defense of children.

Country: Belgium.

Career:

- Director of Defence for Children International (DCI-Belgium) since 2012.
- Member of the advisory body of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child.
- Editor in chief of the Children's Rights Journal and teacher at the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Rights of the Child.
- International expert and trainer on children's rights for organizations such as the Council of Europe and the European Union.
- Participant in various European child justice projects, including "Children's Rights Behind Bars" and "My Lawyer, My Rights"



14 BENYAM DAWIT MEZMUR

Specialization: Children's rights, human rights, intercountry adoption.

Country: Ethiopia.

Career:

- Research Fellow at the Children's Rights Project, Community Law Centre, and part-time lecturer at the University of Western Cape.
- Vice Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
- Has contributed to legal and policy reforms on children's rights in various countries, working with organizations like UNICEF, Save the Children, and World Vision.
- Provides training and advocacy on children's rights, with a focus on violence against children.
- Guest lecturer at universities worldwide and an active contributor to child rights initiatives.



15 MIKIKO OTANI

Specialization: Family law, international human rights law, with a focus on women's and children's rights.

Country: Japan.

Career:

- Partner at Toranomon Law and Economic Offices.
- Lecturer at Soka University Graduate School of Law.
- Chair of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations Committee on International Human Rights.



- Co-representative of the Japan NGO Network for CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women).
- Country representative of Japan in the Family Law & Family Rights Section of LAWASIA (The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific).

16 SOPIO KILADZE

Specialization: Human rights, children's rights, public international law.

Country: Georgia.

Career:

- Chairperson of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee in the Parliament of Georgia since 2016.
- Led the development of the Code on the Rights of the Child and the Law on Social Work in Georgia.
- Advocated for the creation of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Child Rights.
- Initiated and led the "Children for Children" campaign promoting solidarity and volunteerism among children.
- Teaches Public International Law at a leading university in Tbilisi



17 PHILIP JAFFÉ

Specialization: Clinical psychology, children's rights.

Country: Switzerland.

Career:

- Full Professor and Director of the Center for Children's Rights Studies at the University of Geneva since 2008.
- Leads various educational programs, including a Master's in Children's Rights and international workshops on children's human rights.
- Conducted research and organized conferences on topics like child abuse, migration, bullying, juvenile justice, and corporal punishment.
- Involved in drafting the 2010 Council of Europe Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines.
- Board member of the Swiss Center for Expertise in Human Rights and Pro Juventute



18 AISSATOU ALASSANE SIDIKOU

Specialization: Children's rights, human rights.

Country: Niger.

Career:

- Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, serving a term until February 2023.
- Engages in international advocacy and policy development to promote and protect the rights of children.
- Contributes to the review and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Actively participates in training, awareness-raising, and advocacy efforts on children's issues at both national and international levels



TOPIC

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY, TORTURE AND VIOLATION OF SEXUAL INTEGRITY AGAINST CHILDREN

Currently, the world is facing a significant situation in which the freedom and sexual integrity of children are being severely affected. Children in our society are the foundation for creating a healthy and harmonious future on our planet, nonetheless, due to these very circumstances the future of many children is at risk. Therefore, it is urgent to raise awareness and help our delegates understand this issue is truly concerning and requires thorough and precise investigation, as well as a clear, effective, and feasible solution that can be implemented immediately. We are talking about future generations, which is why it is important to have the spirit of foresight to work together and create a better future for them.

This topic in the committee is considered highly relevant because it brings a crucial dimension to the committee's mission. In which it is expected to have a profound impact, both because of the importance of the issue and the innovative vision intended to be provided.

Also it is important to emphasize that according to UNICEF, approximately 28% of identified victims of trafficking worldwide are children, according to a statement released today by UNICEF and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) on the eve of World Day against Trafficking in Persons. This is particularly alarming in regions such as Sub-Saharan, Central America, and the Caribbean. That is why we emphasize that addressing and exposing this topic is of utmost importance and relevance in order to find a possible solution and eradicate this alarming percentage.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) - 1989:

This treaty, adopted by the United Nations, is one of the most important instruments for protecting children's rights. **Article 37 of the Convention** explicitly prohibits torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, as well as the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of minors.

The CRC committee guarantees children's right to protection from all forms of violence, including sexual exploitation.

Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography – 2000:

This protocol reinforces the CRC by requiring states to adopt legal measures to prevent and punish child sexual exploitation and torture related to sexual crimes against minors.

Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) – 1984:

The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), along with its monitoring mechanisms such as the Committee against Torture, ensures that state parties prevent torture, investigate cases, and punish those responsible. Although not specifically focused on children, it applies to the prevention and sanction of the future against anyone, including minors.

UN Security Council Resolutions on Children and Armed Conflict:

The UN has adopted various resolutions, such as Resolution 1612 (2005), which established the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) to monitor grave violations against children in armed conflicts, including torture and sexual violence.

Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction – 1980:

It establishes mechanisms for the rapid return of children wrongfully removed or retained by one of the parents in another country. This also helps prevent situations of deprivation of liberty and sexual exploitation.

Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II:

These instruments prohibit torture, rape, and sexual abuse of minors in armed conflicts. They apply in both international and internal conflicts.

Lanzarote Convention (2007):

This Council of Europe treaty specifically addresses the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse, reinforcing the international commitment to prevent violations of the sexual integrity of minors.

Universal Protection of Human Rights:

Children are one of the most vulnerable groups in society, and their **protection is fundamental to human rights**. Respecting the physical and emotional integrity of children is an essential component of human dignity. Torture, sexual exploitation, and arbitrary deprivation of liberty are considered serious human rights violations.

Sustainable Development:

Protecting Children from these abuses is directly linked to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), **particularly SDG 16**, which advocates for peaceful, inclusive, and just societies. Without the effective protection of children's rights, it is impossible to achieve global sustainable development.

International Stability:

Child sexual exploitation and torture are often linked to human trafficking, armed conflicts, and war crimes, factors that can destabilize entire regions. By addressing and preventing these crimes, the international community seeks to contribute to global peace and security.

Transnational Cooperation:

The global nature of torture, trafficking, and sexual exploitation of minors requires international cooperation. Countries worldwide collaborate in the investigation, prosecution, and prevention of these crimes, recognizing that these issues do not stop at national borders.

Prevention of Child Trafficking:

Sexual abuse, exploitation, and torture of children are directly linked to human trafficking networks, and the international community focuses on dismantling these systems through coordinated policies and legislation.

Reparation and Justice for Victims:

International organizations, such as the *International Criminal Court (ICC)*, aim to bring perpetrators of crimes against children, including torture and sexual exploitation, to justice. The importance of reparation and justice for victims has been recognized as fundamental for the reconciliation and recovery of affected societies.

Protection in Armed Conflicts:

In conflict zones, children are often victims of torture and sexual violence. The United Nations, through programs such as the *Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict*, actively works to protect minors from these atrocities, highlighting their vulnerability in these circumstances.



PILLARS

- Development of effective and accessible child protection systems at national and local levels.
- Training of professionals working with children and adolescents in the identification and response to cases of harm.
- Creation of safe and confidential reporting channels.
- Establishment of comprehensive care services for those affected, including medical, psychological, and legal support.
- Development of social reintegration programs.
- Strengthening criminal justice systems to ensure efficient investigation and handling of cases.

Additionally, there are two SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) that can be connected:

- SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: Focuses on reducing various forms of harm.
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals: Centers on international agreements that could help us mutually address the issue.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS (THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY OUR COMMITTEE WAS CREATED, AND THE ARTICLES ARE MOSTLY ABOUT THIS):

Over the years, the international community has recognized the critical need to protect children from all forms of exploitation, abuse, and harm, taking significant steps to address these urgent issues. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) lays the foundation with Articles 3, 19, 34, and 35, emphasizing the paramount importance of the child's best interests, the need for comprehensive protective measures, and the global commitment to combating exploitation in all its forms.

Additionally, the **Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography** builds on these principles by targeting specific forms of exploitation, urging States Parties to criminalize and eradicate such practices through stringent legislation and international cooperation. Complementing this, the **Lanzarote Convention**, spearheaded by the Council of Europe, outlines concrete measures to safeguard children from exploitation and abuse, with a focus on ensuring justice for victims and holding perpetrators accountable.

At the regional level, the **Central American Convention for the Prevention and Combat of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents** serves as a vital tool in addressing these issues within vulnerable regions. It emphasizes cross-border collaboration, community education, and targeted interventions to protect children from trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Despite these comprehensive frameworks and collaborative efforts, the persistence of child exploitation highlights the urgency of further action. Millions of children worldwide remain at risk, their rights disregarded, and their futures compromised. This is where your committee becomes indispensable. Your deliberations will not only contribute to the implementation of these international measures but also address the gaps and challenges that remain.

This is not just an exercise; it is a call to action. The well-being, dignity, and future of countless children depend on your resolutions and the vision you bring to this committee. The time to act decisively is now, as every moment lost perpetuates the cycle of harm. Let this be your opportunity to create impactful solutions and reaffirm the global commitment to protecting the rights and lives of children everywhere.



TOPIC'S QUESTIONS

- ✦ What measures do the international community has taken to prevent deprivation of liberty, torture and violation of sexual integrity against children?
- ✦ Has my expertise worked on projects related with to the deprivation of liberty, torture and violation of sexual integrity against children?
- ✦ Does the curriculum of my expertise show any training that demonstrates knowledge of the topic?
- ✦ Are there any international conventions, protocols or resolutions that address this issue?
- ✦ What effects does on the child that have been deprive of the liberty, have been torture or violate their sexual integrity?
- ✦ Which Sustainable Development Goals could help?
- ✦ Are there any articles in the Convention of the Rights of the Child that are noteworthy for this topic?
- ✦ Is there any international program working to prevent the deprivation of liberty, torture and violation of sexual integrity against children?

TOPIC'S GLOSSARY

DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY

Is the act of restricting an individual's freedom in movement, free speech and others, often through detention, imprisonment, or confinement. In the case of children, this can occur in the context of legal or illegal detention, trafficking, or forced labor.

TORTURE

The intentional infliction of severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, as a means of punishment, intimidation or to obtain information.

VIOLATION OF SEXUAL INTEGRITY

Any act that infringes on a child's right to bodily autonomy, including sexual abuse, exploitation, and assault.

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

An approach to health and social services that recognizes the impact of trauma and provides support that emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety.

SAFE SPACES DESIGNATED

Environments where children are protected from harm and provided with care, support, and resources.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

An approach to justice of dealing with crime that emphasizes taking responsibility for the effect of your crime on others, and trying to do something that make amends for the victims.

REHABILITATION PROGRAMS SERVICES

Designed to help children recover from experiences such as abuse, deprivation of liberty, or exploitation.

CHILD TRAFFICKING

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. This can include forced labor, sexual exploitation, or illegal adoption.

CHILD EXPLOITATION

The use of a child for profit, labor, sexual purposes, or other illicit activities, often in violation of their rights and integrity

CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

International legal frameworks such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which outlines the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children.

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CONTACT

Sheet



PRESIDENT

Name: Karla Daniela Lara Chávez

Phone Number: 4421698794

E-Mail: kdanielalch@gmail.com

Instagram: @karla_dalch



MODERATOR

Name: Gustavo González Novelo

Phone Number: 9994526259

E-Mail: gustavo.gonzalez.novelo@gmail.com

Instagram: gustavo__gonzalez__



CONFERENCE OFFICER

Name: Ariel Damian Puerto Puerto

Phone Number: 9991110171

E-Mail: alecto221@gmail.com

Instagram: iagoo_puerto



ROOM OFFICER

Name: Paloma Lizaraga Manzanilla

Phone Number: 9992655099

E-Mail: palomalizarraga2008@gmail.com

Instagram: mons.718



