



**PRESIDIUM** *for* **CHANGE**  
FOR A BETTER WORLD

PRESIDIUM MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2024

# UNICEF

## BACKGROUND GUIDE



**UNITED NATIONS**  
CHILDREN'S FUND



**AGENDA:**  
Deliberating on Protection  
of Children in armed  
conflicts.

## PRESIDIUM SCHOOL MUN 24

### **LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that we welcome you to the simulation of the UNICEF Executive Board at "PRESIDIUM MUN 2024." Your presence here embodies our shared commitment to advancing global progress towards gender equality through innovation, technology, and education in the digital age.

Our agenda, focused on "**PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICTS** " signifies a pivotal platform for exploring, debating, and crafting impactful resolutions. Your participation is integral, and we encourage you to infuse this committee with your unique perspectives and innovative ideas.

We emphasize that substance triumphs over style in this session. Your depth of research, strong argumentation, and factual presentations will serve as the foundation of our collective success. Every voice matters, and it's the content of your contributions that will resonate and make a lasting difference.

The significance of our committee's work cannot be overstated, considering the sensitive nature of the issues before us. We entrust each delegate with the responsibility and dedication expected from members of this esteemed board. Your insights and contributions will enrich our learning experience, just as we hope this committee will profoundly benefit you.

If you encounter any discrepancies or errors in the materials provided, please bring them to our attention promptly. We are dedicated to supporting you and ensuring a smooth and productive committee session.

May your preparations be insightful, and your deliberations be fruitful. Your commitment to this cause inspires us all, and we eagerly await the valuable discussions and resolutions that will emerge from our collective efforts.

Warm regards,

UNICEF Executive Board at PRESIDIDIUM MUN 2024

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

**Official Website:** <https://www.unicef.org/>

The **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** is a specialized agency of the United Nations dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the rights, health, and well-being of children and adolescents globally. Established on **December 11, 1946**, in the aftermath of World War II, UNICEF was initially formed to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in war-torn countries. Over time, it evolved into a permanent organization working in over **190 countries and territories**, addressing long-term needs such as education, healthcare, and child protection.

UNICEF's mission is guided by the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**, a fundamental human rights treaty that outlines the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children. UNICEF collaborates with governments, NGOs, and other partners to advocate for these rights, ensuring children have access to essential services and opportunities to thrive. Its core areas of focus include child survival, education, child protection, social inclusion, and responding to humanitarian crises.

One of UNICEF's key roles is ensuring **child survival and development**. The organization addresses critical needs like healthcare and nutrition by providing vaccines, maternal health services, and tackling malnutrition. It also leads initiatives on **water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)**, ensuring access to clean water and promoting hygiene practices to prevent disease outbreaks. In education, UNICEF supports efforts to provide free and quality education for children, particularly in marginalized communities, while also promoting early childhood development programs.

Child protection is another major area of UNICEF's work, aiming to prevent violence, exploitation, and abuse of children, including human trafficking, child labor, and early marriage. During crises, UNICEF plays a crucial role in **humanitarian response**, providing emergency aid such as food, water, and healthcare to children in conflict or disaster zones. The organization also advocates for legal and policy frameworks that safeguard children's rights, while supporting recovery and reintegration programs for affected children, including former child soldiers.

UNICEF is entirely funded by voluntary contributions from governments, private companies, NGOs, and individual donors. Its global operations are supported by partnerships with other UN agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector to amplify its impact. The organization is also known for high-profile campaigns like **#ENDviolence**, aimed at preventing violence against children, and programs like **Education Cannot Wait**, which ensures children in conflict areas receive education.

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UNICEF's **structure** is governed by a 36-member Executive Board, with its headquarters located in **New York City**.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Over **230 million children** are living in conflict zones across the globe, from countries like Syria, Yemen, and South Sudan to regions affected by ongoing violence. These children are not just incidental victims of war; they are often deliberately targeted. Many are recruited as child soldiers, subjected to sexual exploitation, displaced from their homes, or separated from their families. Beyond the physical harm, the psychological toll on these children is immense. They endure the trauma of witnessing or being part of horrific violence, which can have lasting impacts on their mental health and ability to reintegrate into society.

Our agenda must focus on **preventing the recruitment and use of children by armed groups** and providing immediate and long-term care for those who have been affected. We must also ensure that international laws and conventions designed to protect children in armed conflicts, such as the **Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict**, are strictly enforced. Violations of these laws must be met with accountability to prevent future atrocities and send a clear message that the world will not tolerate the exploitation of children in warfare.

A key part of this agenda is **providing psychosocial support and rehabilitation** for children affected by war. These children need not only physical care but also mental health services to help them process the trauma they have experienced. Our efforts should prioritize community-based programs that offer safe spaces for children to recover, reintegrate into society, and rebuild their lives. Education, too, is a vital tool for healing and long-term recovery. By ensuring that children have **safe access to education** in conflict zones, we can provide them with a sense of normalcy and hope for a better future.

In many conflict zones, access to basic services like healthcare, nutrition, and clean water is severely disrupted. Therefore, **ensuring humanitarian access** to deliver these essential services is critical. UNICEF must work closely with all parties involved in conflicts to negotiate safe passage for humanitarian aid workers and supplies. This will allow us to reach children with life-saving interventions, from immunizations and malnutrition treatment to maternal health services, reducing child mortality in these perilous environments.

Furthermore, our agenda must include a strong emphasis on **accountability for violations of children's rights** during armed conflicts. Those responsible for recruiting child soldiers, committing sexual violence, or targeting schools and hospitals must be held accountable. By working with international legal bodies such as the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** and the **United Nations Security Council**, we can push for justice and ensure that crimes against children do not go unpunished.

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Lastly, **strengthening partnerships** at the local, national, and international levels is key to the success of this agenda. We need to collaborate with governments, civil society, and local communities to implement effective child protection strategies. Engaging with communities affected by conflict can help us better understand their needs and design programs that are both culturally sensitive and sustainable.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: THIS BACKGROUND GUIDE ISN'T A VALID SOURCE FOR PROOFS. IT IS JUST FOR REFERENCE, DON'T RESTRICT YOUR RESEARCH TO SAME.**

There are three consistently significant parts of representative planning. They are: useful; meaningful; and positional planning. Practical readiness outfits the representatives with essential apparatuses, including a comprehension of the guidelines important to act on the board of trustees. The meaningful component gives preparation of explicit data on the subject regions. At long last, positional planning requires the understudies to embrace viewpoints that are not their own. In light of this, the EB gives three instruments to help you: this Guide to Delegate Preparation, Background Guides, and position papers. Together, these will guarantee you will be prepared for the gathering. Past perusing and understanding the material we have given, the more pragmatic experience you can gain through banter, goal composing, making introductions, and so forth, the more ready you will be.

### **Meaningful Preparation**

The Background Guides are a consequence of broad exploration and exertion with respect to the Executive Board and are the establishment of considerable groundwork for every advisory group. We recommend that you read them, talk about them, and read them once more. On the off chance that an agent has not perused and ingested the data in the Background Guide, the person won't contribute adequately to the board. An ambitious beginning on the Background Guides will empower you to completely comprehend the subjects and start to tissue out your own thoughts. Advise yourself that you should go about as policymakers, dissecting and shaping the data you have gotten into arrangements and goals. Conversations with different representatives will likewise assist you with fostering your thoughts.

### **Positional Preparation**

We expect representatives to receive the situation of a particular country all through the UN reproduction. This is a vital component of the "global" experience of a model UN as it powers representatives to analyze the points of view, issues, and arrangements of one more country at an

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exceptionally major level. It is additionally quite possibly the most troublesome parts of MUN on the grounds that understudies should go up against natural inclinations of their own public viewpoints and authentic data. The position papers are the focal point of positional planning before the meeting. Albeit generally short, we request that you invest energy and exertion on investigating and keeping in touch with them. Materials arranged by the EB are not intended to fill in for your individual exploration. All things being equal, they ought to give a beginning stage, motivating you to ask yourself inquiries about the current issues. The best-arranged agents are those that accept the given materials as the start of their exploration and dig further into the theme regions. Past these materials are a large group of data administrations, starting with United Nations sources. UN's assets regularly have ordered measurements, outlines, and charts which you may discover supportive in understanding the issues. Most UN report communities convey records of UN gatherings; maybe the most ideal approach to comprehending your nation's position is to see it iterated by its diplomat.

### Resources for Research and Reading

- **Yearbook of the United Nations**: The Yearbook is a decent beginning stage for your examination. The Yearbook will furnish you with general data on what has been done on your theme during a specific year. It likewise gives exceptionally accommodating references to past articles and goals.
- **United Nations Chronicle**: This magazine gives you general data on the procedures of the UN. Watch out for exceptional reports on your theme region, which will advise you about the point and countries' situations on it
- **UN Document Index**: This record for all UN reports comes in three distinct renditions: UNDI (1950-1973), INDEX (1970-1978), and UNODC (1979-present). Contingent upon which of the three you are utilizing, you will track down a subject record, a nation file, and an alphanumeric rundown of all reports distributed (this is helpful in light of the fact that each panel has its own novel alphanumeric prefix and accordingly you can track down every one of the records put out by a board of trustees during a specific year paying little heed to the particular theme.
- **UN Resolutions**: This arrangement is both significant and extremely simple to utilize. The record is aggregate from 1946, which implies that you need just check the most current list to track down every one of the goals on your point that the UN has at any point passed.
- **Other UN Sources**: Depending on the subject, there may be extra pertinent UN sources. Check for books and exceptional reports put out by the WHO. Past United Nations sources,

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notwithstanding, are general wellsprings of data. Explore your school and nearby libraries. Look at diaries, periodicals, and papers for more current sources. Remember to ask the curators for help.

•**Books**: Up-to-date books are probably going to give you a profundity and exactness that is hopeless from UN sources or periodicals. Try to check library postings for bound materials. Book research, in any case, can take a decent arrangement of time, so use prudence when choosing books.

•**Periodicals**: Periodicals are valuable for straightforward, current data on points (the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and InfoTrack fill in as a record for these materials). Try not to anticipate that they should supply you with the profundity of data you will require for the Conference.

•**People**: A regularly ignored source; individuals can help you extraordinarily in your exploration. A few groups to remember are: bookkeepers, individual agents, personnel counselors, and your board of trustees' Director, Moderator, and Assistant Directors. Not exclusively can these individuals help you discover what you are searching for, yet they may likewise suggest new sources that you had not thought of. Try not to spare a moment to call or email your advisory group Director.

•**Embassies and Consular Offices**: Contact the government office or consular office of the country that you are addressing. These spots are happy to help you in your exploration via mailing factual information and other unclassified data.

### RESEARCH AID

(This is just a suggested pattern, you can research your way, individual differences make us all special but these suggestions may aid you in understanding where to start)

#### 1. Start From Knowing

- a. United Nations
- b. Your committee
- c. Mandate of the committee (functions and power)
- d. Bodies it works with
- e. Final result of your committee
- f. Funding channels

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### **2. Know Your Agenda**

- a. Historical background
- b. Current trends
- c. Future aims
- d. International legal instruments

### **3. Within the Agenda Cover the Following Areas**

- a. Political
- b. Economic
- c. Social
- d. Technology and its role
- e. Arms and army strength
- f. Legalities
- g. Impacts and implications of (a-f) on historical background, current trends, future aims and international legal instruments.

**Note: International legal instruments are applicable on Nations for them to reach individuals they should be incorporated in domestic law as individuals are subjects of it i.e. domestic law is applicable to citizens. So it is crucial to understand the relationship between the two and bridge and the gap for effective implementation.**

### **4. Know Your Country**

- a. Historical background, Current trends, Future aims of the agenda from your country's perspective.
- b. Political, Economic, Social, Technology and its role, Arms and army strength and Legal aspect related situation in your nation. (emphasis on High value resources, crisis, support services, governance, political system and administrative conditions)
- c. Membership and participation in regional organizations
- d. International organizations other than UN
- e. Allies and non allies (friends and enemies) of your nations



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**NOTE: Research alone is not enough, as it would be simply reading out from the internet what is needed is to “Analyze” i.e. to present your understanding of the research. For eg: you read on the internet about stress RESEARCH “ Depression is leading cause of disability” ANALYSIS It can cover why depression is on a hike, mental health status, stigma around it and need for change, merits or demerits. A sneak peak analysis includes your interpretation and understanding of the agenda.**

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict was established by Council resolution 1612 (2005) . It reviews reports of the monitoring and reporting mechanism concerning parties in situations of armed conflict listed in the annexes to the Secretary-General’s report. The annexes list parties that recruit or use children in violation of the international obligations applicable to them (in accordance with resolution 1539 (2004) ), parties to armed conflict that engage, in contravention of applicable international law, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, in situations of armed conflict (in accordance with resolution 1882 (2009) ), and parties to armed conflict that engage, in contravention of applicable international law, (a) in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and (b) in recurrent attacks or threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals in situations of armed conflict (in accordance with resolution 1998 (2011) ).

The reports are formally introduced to the Security Council Working Group by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. Following a negotiation process among the Working Group members in informal consultations, the Working Group adopts Conclusions in a formal meeting of the Working Group. The Conclusions are subsequently issued as an official document of the Security Council.

The Conclusions of the Working Group may contain recommendations to parties to conflict, Member States, the United Nations system, donors and other relevant actors. In addition to the public Conclusions document, the recommendations are transmitted to recipients in the form of letters and in the form of a public statement by the Chair of the Working Group which is issued as a Security Council press release.

In addition to the Secretary-General’s periodic reports, the Working Group regularly receives updates from the field through a Global Horizontal Note which is presented by UNICEF. Members of the Working Group also hear regular updates on current issues and activities

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relevant to children and armed conflict from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict.

### **IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS**

**[Children and armed conflict Report of the Secretary-General  
Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children](#)**

### **HOW DO WE WORK TO BETTER PROTECT CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CONFLICT?**

The Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict works in close collaboration with the UN system, civil society partners, regional and sub-regional organizations, and Member States. Information on violations is gathered through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, established in 2005. Based on this information, the Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict lists in its annexes parties found to have committed one or more grave violations against children that the Security Council has designated as "trigger" for listing. The annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, covering the year 2015, describes 20 situations of conflict. Fifty-nine parties to conflict in 14 countries are listed in the report's annexes. Of these, eight are Government security forces and 51 are non-State armed groups.

### **SOME EXAMPLE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT**

#### **ISRAEL PALESTINE CONFLICT**

High Prevalence of Violence against Children: Children are exposed to unacceptable levels of violence on the way to and from school, during school, and in their homes. There are two main sources of violence: i) violence resulting from the occupation and ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and ii) violence within Palestinian families and communities, including domestic violence, harsh corporal punishment in homes and schools, sexual abuse, early marriage, and child labour. These two sources of violence are interconnected and are linked to family stress and dysfunction.

A study on violence in 2011 found that 48 per cent of households (48 percent in the West Bank, and 49 percent in Gaza) were exposed to violence from the security forces and settlers.<sup>1</sup> Domestic violence levels are also high in 2014 MICSs (PCBS) study, confirming that 93 percent of children aged 2 to 14 years experienced violent disciplining at home, and 23 percent of

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children experienced severe physical punishment. Pervasive and harmful social norms including child marriage, child labour, sexual violence and gender-based violence are issues of great concern.

The overall purpose of UNICEF State of Palestine's child protection programming is to ensure that more children, especially the most vulnerable, are better protected from violence, exploitation and grave violations. Ultimately, by eliminating these childhood violations, children will be better able to achieve their educational potential, be guaranteed improved health outcomes, and assume their role as productive members of their societies, communities and families.

### **In order to achieve these protection commitments for children UNICEF SoP is working towards:**

Strengthened investment in national child protection prevention and response service delivery systems. This includes support for necessary child protection legal, policy and regulatory reforms aimed at ensuring protection safeguard measures are in place. It also entails reinforcing the social welfare workforce, strengthening case management systems and data collection systems, and supporting access to restorative and child-friendly justice systems including preventive and diversionary measures.

Strengthening prevention and protection services for children in humanitarian settings by investing in child-friendly community level services in worst affected areas including Gaza, East Jerusalem, and Hebron. This includes scaling up access to mental health and psychosocial support services and specialist services for children and their caregivers, as well as legal assistance to arrested and detained children. Greater coherence and complementarity between development and humanitarian programmes are promoted by building on existing systems and community level structures to deliver humanitarian services.

Strengthening monitoring and documentation on grave violations against children by stepping up documentation of violations from all parties, measuring the impact on children, and advocating for enhanced compliance to international humanitarian law, international human rights law, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and child protection standards.

Undertaking research to expand the evidence base on the vulnerabilities and gaps faced by children, and the impact on their realization of their full potential, informing programme responsiveness and designs some examples of violence against children in armed conflict

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### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What strategies can be employed to prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers in conflict zones?
2. How can UNICEF ensure that children in conflict zones have access to safe and consistent education?
3. What are the most effective ways to provide psychosocial support to children affected by armed conflicts?
4. How can UNICEF improve humanitarian access in conflict zones to deliver critical services to children?
5. What legal and policy measures need to be strengthened to hold accountable those who violate children's rights in armed conflicts?
6. How can UNICEF support the reintegration of former child soldiers into their communities?
7. What role should local communities play in protecting children during armed conflicts, and how can UNICEF empower them?
8. How can UNICEF ensure that girls receive targeted protection and support in conflict situations?
9. How can child protection measures be integrated into peace processes and post-conflict recovery plans?
10. What long-term solutions can address the root causes of armed conflict that put children at risk?

### Sources for Research

NOTE: Some links are also given in the paragraphs above refer to them for detailed research and analysis on the agenda.

- [1. Facing Record-High Violations in 2023, Security Council Explores Ways to Bolster Norms to Protect Children in Armed Conflict](#)
- [2. Children and Armed Conflict](#)

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[3. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict | OHCHR](#)

[4. Protecting children from armed conflict - PMC](#)

[5. \(PDF\) Protecting children in armed conflict: from commitment to compliance](#)

[6. Protection of Children from Recruitment and Use in Armed Conflict: Role of International Legal Framework](#)

[7. https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/1882%282009%29](https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/1882%282009%29)

[8. https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/1539%20%282004%29](https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/1539%20%282004%29)

[9. https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/1612%282005%29](https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/1612%282005%29)

**NOTE:** Kindly note that this Background Guide is not exhaustive in nature and is merely a vessel to guide your research procedures by hinting at a few of many key focus areas and the degree of the technicality and analysis that is expected out of every one of you. Research should not be limited to the background guide and the links provided here, delegates are encouraged to go beyond and research all relevant information.

With this, we wish you all the best and anticipate two days of exemplary academic deliberations!