



Russian Federation

United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Combatting Child Labor in Global Supply Chains

Rebuilding Education Systems in Post-Taliban Afghanistan

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Topic A: Combatting Child Labor in Global Supply Chains

All over the world, young children work in unsafe conditions, participating in global supply chains. In many industries, including mining, cocoa farming, and manufacturing, this issue is unfortunately widespread. Education should be the primary focus for children, and working often prevents children from learning. The Russian Federation believes that steps must be taken to ensure that all children can get a thorough education, rather than working in possibly unsafe conditions to feed their families.

Russia follows international norms in banning hazardous child labor, limiting the amount of time children can work to short hours to not impede their education, while allowing adolescents to explore opportunities. Russia supports cooperation with international organizations like the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to prohibit child labor causing interference in children's health and education. The ILO and UNICEF have consistently worked to improve the lives of children around the world, and must continue to do so.

Regulations alone cannot fix the issue. Children are often driven to join the workforce to procure enough money to continue to purchase food and essential items for themselves and their families. In these situations, support must be given to families so that they do not need to resort to having their children work. Programs to increase adult employment can help significantly alleviate the issue, such that adults can secure jobs that pay the expenses of their families.

Simply punishing corporations for their participation in child labor is not a viable solution – in fact, it often makes the problem worse. The withdrawal of large employers who



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employ children, while good in theory that it reduces rates of child labor, exacerbates the issue of poverty even more, possibly leading people to seek out even more dangerous jobs or starve.

Instead, the international community must prioritize making it so children do not have to work, rather than taking away their employment with no other option.

The Delegation of the Russian Federation believes that a successful solution must focus on programs to encourage adult employment, support to families in poverty, as well as financial incentives to corporations to make sure their supply chain does not include child labor. The international community must work together to achieve this goal and support education programs for children who cannot afford to go to school. UNICEF must continue to work to identify and terminate exploitative child labor.



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Topic B: Rebuilding Education Systems in Post-Taliban Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, under the rule of the Taliban, strict rules have been imposed on girls' education; girls cannot continue any further than 6th grade, and many schools have closed due to a lack of funding. This is a grave violation of children's rights, and the international community must work to correct this error. The Russian Federation recognizes that education is a human right, and all children should be given an education.

Afghanistan's education system has been severely damaged by wars, foreign interference, and weak governments. Many children cannot go to school, and some are prohibited from doing so. Millions of children have missed out on having an education. Many schools do not have the resources and trained teachers they need. Children should not have to suffer due to the political turmoil in their country.

The lack of education presents a serious risk to Afghanistan and the region. Without education, young people are vulnerable to extremism, violence, and crime. The lack of education will hurt the Afghan economy, as skilled laborers are not available. It is of the utmost importance to rebuild the educational system in Afghanistan.

Russia believes that the solution to this issue is not placing sanctions on Afghanistan, but rather working with the Afghan people to provide funding for schools. Unfreezing funds for humanitarian purposes is essential to allowing the children of Afghanistan to prosper. The international community must work to provide education to Afghan children, be it through community learning centers or collaboration with the government. Rebuilding the education



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system is essential, and Russia recommends the international community prioritizes creating a system so that Afghanistan can prosper.

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