

The Third General Assembly (GA3):

Topic: Safeguarding the Rights of Children and Preventing Child Labor in South Asia

General Overview:

Child labor is deeply rooted in South Asia and affects millions of children in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal. Despite global efforts such as the ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, implementation is weak across South Asia. The chronic state of poverty, inadequate education systems, social beliefs, and ineffective labor laws has created a self-perpetuating cycle with no perceived exit route for children to escape exploitative work. Children are forced to work in agriculture, domestic work, brick kilns, and in garment production, in some cases in dangerous conditions. Not only is the issue one of negation of children's rights, but it threatens the future and regional progress. Both short-term protection and longer-term sustainable actions that include legal change, access to education, and business responsibility are required.

Sub-topic 1: Education Access and Poverty

Poverty is the most powerful driver of child labor. Where there are unmet basic needs, child labor is the economic necessity of the household. Coupled with that is the lack of good quality education—especially in poverty and remote areas—where schools are inaccessible, short-staffed, or ill-equipped. Despite the availability of schools, the opportunity cost of lost earnings is too great for many families to justify withdrawing their children from work. The additional barrier of cultural taboos against education is one that girls must break through. Delegates should notice how the intersection of poverty and education systems, and how targeted intervention such as conditional cash transfers, in-school feeding programs, and gender-sensitive educational policy are able to break through this vicious cycle.

Sub-topic 2: Weak Legal Frameworks and Enforcement

Although these countries have signed up to internationally agreed conventions, there are gaps in national labor legislation in all but several South Asian countries. Informal economies, where child labor is most dense, are not subject to the law. Inspectors of labor are poorly equipped and often vulnerable to bribery, and judicial processes are sluggish to prosecute wrongdoers. There are no programs of birth registration in some countries, and it is easy to exploit children whose age is

uncertain. Actions such as support stronger enforcement, close legal loopholes, and help government agencies with training and technology in order to improve labor inspections and reporting.

Sub-topic 3: Corporate Accountability and Ethical Supply Chains

Most transnational corporations are reliant on South Asian supply chains in agriculture, textiles, and mining. These sophisticated chains often have subcontractors that utilize child labor in the background. Even if corporations advertise ignorance, inadequate control and disclosure measures are part of the issue. The role of corporate social responsibility and the regulation of business will be addressed by the representatives. Enforceable actions like human rights due diligence laws, third-party auditing, and international certification regimes (e.g., Fair Trade) are possible avenues of holding corporations accountable. The role of the educated consumer and global pressure should be addressed as well.

Topic 2: Assessing the Impact of the Russia–Ukraine War on Civilian Populations and Access to Humanitarian Aid

General Overview:

Since the escalation in the Russia–Ukraine conflict in 2022, the humanitarian condition has been catastrophic. There has been internal and external displacement of millions of non-combatants, infrastructure damage, interruption of access to food, water, health services, and shelter, and unabated violations of international humanitarian principles which have revealed shortfalls in delivery of humanitarian assistance. Civilian areas came under direct attack, humanitarian convoys faced obstruction, and designated civilian corridors were repurposed for strategic use. Neighboring countries and global organizations, particularly those with restricted funds and capabilities, have seen the conflict extend to the refugees themselves. The representatives are meant to deliberate on how better measures can be taken in view of such crises and how civilians can be protected in the midst of active hostilities.

Sub-topic 1: Displacement and Refugee Management

More than 10 million have been displaced by the conflict, creating one of Europe's largest refugee crises since World War II. Among the countries sheltering millions are Poland, Moldova, and Germany, and infrastructure and services are stretched. Displaced persons—particularly vulnerable groups of children, women, and the elderly—require immediate relief and long-term assistance with integration. The global community's ability to share responsibility more equally and ensure protection

under the 1951 Refugee Convention could be considered. Resettlement, economic support to host countries, and protection from trafficking or exploitation could be raised.

Sub-topic 2: Barriers to Humanitarian Aid Distribution

Humanitarian aid in Ukraine has been affected with issues such as: conflict areas, sealed entry points, destroyed infrastructure, and politicization. Humanitarian staff have been attacked and some aid diverted or stolen. Methods to ensure safe passage of aid convoys, compliance with principles of humanitarianism, and independent monitoring regimes must be pursued. Demilitarizing aid corridors, ceasefires brokered in negotiations, and extensive mandates to bodies like the UN OCHA, ICRC, and WHO are among the possible measures.

Sub-topic 3: Protection of Civilian Infrastructure and International Justice

Repeated attacks on vital infrastructure such as hospitals, power stations, and water facilities are essentially potential war crimes. Members should reflect on how existing global mechanisms can be made more effective to prosecute those who commit these crimes. This includes better evidence acquisition (e.g., by satellite imagery), greater protection under the Geneva Conventions, and greater global support along with documentation and examinations of war crimes.

Topic 3: Promoting Gender Equality in Labor Rights and Economic Participation for Women in Latin America

General Overview:

Latin American women persist in fighting for equitable opportunities and rights in the labor market despite progress in education and legislative reforms. Among these are wage disparities, discrimination, underrepresentation in management, and neglect of support given to mothers who work. Additionally, millions of women are trapped in informal economies with no protection in labor or social services. Gender-based violence and work harassment further lead to a toxic work environment. How to promote labor equity, economically empower women, and promote work cultures across the continent should be reflected on. The discussion is in line with wider objectives like UN SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

Sub-topic 1: Closing the Gender Pay Gap

In Latin America, on average, women are paid 20–30 percent less than men doing the same work. Structural barriers such as occupational segregation, restricted opportunities to climb the

occupational ladder, and implicit discrimination all contribute to the gap. Mandatory disclosure of pay, gender audits, equality of remuneration laws, and public reporting are some policy options should be examined. Additionally, further examining how affirmative hiring and promotion of women's entrepreneurship foster opportunities and economic participation.

Sub-topic 2: Informal Work and Limited Social Protections

Most Latin American female workers work in informal jobs—such as domestic work, street vendors, and small-scale agriculture—where there is no enforcement of labor laws. They have restricted or no access to health care, leave during pregnancy, retirement benefits, and protection from work hazards. Delegates could address formalizing informal work by leveraging incentives, easy enrollment, and state-sponsored insurance plans. Uruguay and Costa Rica's best practices may offer blueprints for innovative change.

Sub-topic 3: Confronting Discrimination and Harassment

Some of the main drivers of women's economic marginalization are strict work conditions, discrimination, and sexual harassment. Social stigma or lack of proper legal choice deters many women from reporting abuse. Arguments on how to further improve existing protections, encourage ratification of ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the world of work, and push for the adoption of corporate training programs would be the most suitable approach to the issue. Offering simple access to grievance mechanisms and increasing the proportion of women in leadership roles could also be on the agenda.