The Third General Assembly (GA3)

Topic 1: Preventing Attacks on Schools and Improving the Protection of Students and Teachers in Conflict-Affected Regions, with a Focus on Sudan and Ukraine

General Overview

Attacks on schools remain a critical issue in conflict-affected regions, threatening the safety and future of millions of children and educators. In countries such as Sudan and Ukraine, ongoing armed conflicts have resulted in schools being damaged, destroyed, or forced to close due to violence and insecurity. These attacks often occur during broader military operations, including shelling, airstrikes, and ground combat, or when schools are located in areas of active fighting.

According to international organizations, over 3,700 educational facilities in Ukraine have been damaged or destroyed since 2022, demonstrating the scale of the crisis. Such attacks disrupt education systems, contribute to long-term learning loss, and increase the vulnerability of children, particularly those who are displaced. These challenges highlight the urgent need to strengthen the protection of education in conflict zones and ensure safe learning environments.

Sub-topic 1: Protecting Education from Military Use and Armed Conflict

The involvement of schools in armed conflict significantly increases their risk of being targeted. In some cases, schools are used by armed groups as shelters, bases, or storage facilities. When this occurs, schools may lose their civilian protection under international humanitarian law, increasing their exposure to attack.

This places students and teachers at direct risk of harm and contributes to the destruction of educational infrastructure. Protecting schools from military use and reinforcing their status as safe civilian spaces is essential to safeguarding education during conflict.

Sub-topic 2: Maintaining Access to Education During Conflict and Displacement

Conflict and displacement severely disrupt access to education. In Sudan, insecurity and damaged infrastructure prevent children from attending school, while in Ukraine, large numbers of students have been displaced and forced to rely on alternative forms of learning.

Although remote learning has been used as a solution, it presents significant challenges. Limited access to electricity and reliable internet restricts participation, particularly for vulnerable populations. In addition, inequality between rural and urban students is often intensified, as those in rural areas face greater barriers to accessing digital education.

These disruptions contribute to increased dropout rates, learning gaps, and long-term inequality. Ensuring continuous and equitable access to education remains a key priority.

Sub-topic 3: Ensuring Accountability for Violations Against Students and Teachers

A lack of accountability for attacks on education allows such violations to continue. In conflict settings, it is often difficult to identify perpetrators or enforce legal consequences due to instability and weak governance structures.

As a result, many attacks on schools and educators go unpunished, creating a cycle of repeated violations. Strengthening monitoring, reporting, and enforcement mechanisms is essential to ensuring accountability and deterring future attacks.

The Third General Assembly (GA3)

Topic 2: Addressing Labor Rights Violations and Unsafe Working Conditions in Fast Fashion Supply Chains in Bangladesh

General Overview
Labor rights violations remain a significant issue within the fast fashion industry, particularly in Bangladesh, where the garment sector plays a major role in the national economy. The global demand for low-cost and rapidly produced clothing places intense pressure on factories, often resulting in low wages, long working hours, and unsafe conditions for workers.

This issue is addressed under international frameworks such as the International Labour Organization conventions and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which establish standards for fair labor practices and corporate accountability.

Despite these frameworks, enforcement gaps remain, and many workers continue to face exploitation and unsafe working environments, highlighting the need for stronger regulation and accountability across global supply chains.

Sub-topic 1: Improving Wages and Working Hours for Garment Workers
Low wages and excessive working hours are key drivers of labor exploitation in Bangladesh's garment sector. Many workers earn near-minimum wages and are required to work long hours to meet production demands set by fast fashion companies.

These conditions lead to financial insecurity, physical exhaustion, and reduced quality of life. Addressing wage standards and regulating working hours are essential steps toward improving labor conditions and protecting workers' rights.

Sub-topic 2: Ensuring Safe and Regulated Working Conditions
Unsafe working conditions continue to pose serious risks to garment workers. Weak safety standards and poor enforcement contribute to hazardous environments where accidents can occur.

This is illustrated by incidents such as the Rana Plaza collapse, which resulted in the deaths of over 1,100 workers and highlighted the severe consequences of inadequate regulation. Although improvements have been made since then, industrial accidents and unsafe conditions continue to affect workers, particularly in poorly regulated or subcontracted factories.

Strengthening safety regulations and ensuring consistent enforcement are critical to preventing future tragedies.

Sub-topic 3: Strengthening Accountability of Global Brands and Factory Owners
A lack of clear accountability within global supply chains allows labor rights violations to persist. While local factory owners are responsible for working conditions, international brands influence pricing, production speed, and labor demands.

This shared responsibility often results in gaps in accountability, leaving workers without protection. Strengthening transparency, improving reporting mechanisms, and clearly defining responsibilities across supply chains are essential to ensuring that both local and global actors are held accountable.

The Third General Assembly (GA3)

Topic 3: Combating Acute Child Malnutrition in Drought-Affected Regions of South-Central Somalia

General Overview
Acute child malnutrition remains a severe humanitarian crisis in Somalia, particularly in drought-affected regions of South-Central Somalia. Over 1.5 million children are estimated to be acutely malnourished, facing life-threatening conditions such as weakened immune systems, stunted growth, and increased risk of mortality.

This crisis is driven by multiple factors, including prolonged drought, economic instability, conflict, and limited access to healthcare. Climate change contributes to more frequent and severe droughts, reducing food production and water availability. Additionally, the presence of armed groups such as Al-Shabaab restricts humanitarian access and disrupts food distribution systems.

These combined factors highlight the complexity of the crisis and the need for both immediate and long-term solutions.

Sub-topic 1: Strengthening Food Aid and Nutrition Support Systems
Food insecurity is a primary driver of acute child malnutrition. Repeated droughts reduce agricultural production and limit food availability, while conflict disrupts supply chains and humanitarian aid delivery.

As a result, many children do not receive sufficient or nutritious food, leading to severe malnutrition. Strengthening food aid distribution systems and improving the effectiveness of nutrition programs are essential to addressing immediate needs.

Sub-topic 2: Improving Healthcare Services and Treatment for Malnourished Children
Limited access to healthcare services significantly worsens the impact of malnutrition. In many areas, healthcare facilities are scarce, under-resourced, or inaccessible due to insecurity and displacement.

Without early diagnosis and treatment, malnourished children face increased risks of disease and death. Expanding access to healthcare services and strengthening treatment programs are critical to improving survival rates and long-term outcomes.

Sub-topic 3: Expanding Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Services
The effects of malnutrition extend beyond physical health and are closely linked to broader child protection challenges. Many children experience displacement, family separation, and psychological distress due to ongoing crises.

The lack of structured child protection and psychosocial support services limits recovery and increases long-term vulnerability. Strengthening integrated support systems, including safe spaces and mental health services, is essential to ensuring holistic recovery and resilience for affected children.